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Hebron talks to resume in Eilat tomorrow

JON IMMANUEL and DAVID MAKOVSKY

ISRAEL offered several proposals at Friday's talks which the Palestinians sharply criticized but promised to answer when full talks on Hebron resume in Eilat tomorrow.

The security and civil affairs teams were meeting last night in Tel Aviv and heads of the full delegation were meeting in Jerusalem.

Asfour, speaking to Gaza journalists at the Information Ministry, said Israel's negotiators argued among themselves and were trying to postpone implementation of the agreements, while "we are trying our best to reach the same agreement as before without modifications."

His remarks contrasted with generally optimistic assessments of progress by Palestinian Authority Planning Minister Nabil Shaath and senior negotiator Mahmoud Abbas.

"I think there is a positive move in the talks," said Abbas. "If the talks continue like this, we hope during the next week to achieve a protocol of implementation."

Saab Erekat, who has accused Israel of trying to reopen the agreement, now talks of the possibility of agreement as soon as the two sides establish implementation mechanisms. The proposals put before the Palestinians include alternative ways of solving the issue of hot pursuit and limiting municipal building close to Jewish residences.

Israel wants to conclude a Hebron redeployment deal, but rejects Palestinian calls for a package deal regarding other outstanding issues, believing such a broad agenda could only serve to delay an IDF pullback, a senior official in Jerusalem involved in the negotiations said.

"Anyone who insists on doing a complete package deal now is just delaying. It would take enormous time and manpower to deal with all these other issues. We can discuss the other issues after the Hebron deal," a senior official said.

Beyond Hebron, Palestinian officials would like Israel to spell out how they will implement commitments on a safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank, the scope of prisoner releases, and terms for opening the Palestinian airport in the Gaza Strip.

Moreover, Palestinians want a specific reaffirmation of the Oslo principle of Israeli pullbacks, fearing Netanyahu's newly proclaimed interest in starting talks on the final disposition of territories after the Hebron deal is a ruse to avoid further redeployments in the short term.

In a nod to the Palestinians, US peace process coordinator Dennis Ross said Friday that while a Hebron agreement is a first priority, the other issues would have to be addressed as well. Last night Ross spoke with both delegations.

Israeli chief negotiator Dan Shomron was optimistic after Friday's three-hour session. "We are very close to a signed arrangement or agreement," Shomron said.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat was more cautious. Asked if there had been progress in Taba, he said: "Not yet."

Ross briefed Netanyahu on the negotiations Friday afternoon. Channel 2 said Netanyahu promised his cabinet ministers Friday morning that he would show them any Hebron agreement before it was signed.

Channel 2 said Netanyahu and Science Minister Ze'ev Binjamin Begin had a sharp exchange over the withdrawal plans.

In Gaza City, members of the PLO Executive Committee met Friday evening to review the week of talks. Ahmed Abdel Rahman, secretary of the Palestinian Cabinet, accused Israel of intransigence.

"It is very clear that day by day, the Israeli government tried to reopen the agreement and renegotiate it. We completely reject this," he said.



French President Jacques Chirac (right) is given a festive welcome to Damascus by Syrian President Hafez Assad yesterday. (Reuters)

Chirac in Damascus: Peace process in danger, EU must intervene

DAMASCUS (Reuters) - French President Jacques Chirac arrived in Syria to a tumultuous welcome yesterday at the start of a Middle East tour aimed at increasing European influence on a faltering peace process.

More than 20,000 people, including many schoolchildren given half a day off, turned out to cheer Chirac and President Hafez Assad at Damascus Airport in a carefully staged display of warmth for a leader hailed by the official Syrian press as "one of the best friends of the Arabs."

Chirac, declaring the Middle East peace process in danger, said yesterday it was time for Europe to co-sponsor Arab-Israeli peace talks, and to contribute proposals as well as money.

In a dinner speech in Damascus after receiving a tumultuous welcome at the start of a six-day Middle East tour, Chirac told Assad: "Today, Mr. President, we must work together to get the peace process back on track and let it succeed."

"France and Europe must stand by the parties as sources of friendship and proposals, and not as mere partners for reconstruction. It is time for Europe to co-sponsor this process as well."

Chirac did not once mention the United States, the region's dominant power broker, which sidelined Europe in the talks. But he said there was a need to improve the framework and method of the negotiations, which had shown their limits in recent months.

Endorsing Syria's terms for resuming talks with Israel, he said peace was "only attainable on the basis of the achievements of the negotiations conducted for the last four years." Israel's government has called for talks without preconditions, which Syria rejects as a return to square one.

Chirac said the essential principle of "land for peace" applied both to the Golan Heights and to Lebanon, where both Israel and Syria have troops.

Troop officials said Chirac would act as a "messenger of peace," urging leaders on his six-day tour to resume peace negotiations and not allow the opportunity for peace to slip away, with a risk of a new regional war.

Foreign Minister Farouk Shara said Syria welcomed a French role in Middle East peace-making, which would complement, not substitute for, the United States' role.

A senior French official said an agreement ending a festering dispute over repayment of Syria's FF 1.3 billion (\$250 million) debt to France would be signed during Chirac's visit, opening the way for new state-guaranteed French investment in Syria and increased trade.

By choosing to start his third Middle East trip this year in Damascus, Chirac underlines the fact that France sees Syria as holding the key to a comprehensive peace in the region.

Chirac's warm welcome highlighted a rapprochement between France and Syria, long at odds over Lebanon, a former French protectorate where Syria is the dominant power with 35,000 troops, since he took office 18 months ago.

Asked whether Lebanon was no longer a problem in relations with Damascus, the French official said Chirac hoped through the peace process, an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon and the reconstruction of Lebanon would enable Beirut to "recover full independence."

Chirac's visit is only the second by a French president in the past 50 years.

Yeltsin replaces Lebed with loyal moderate

News agencies

MOSCOW - President Boris Yeltsin, in a surprise move, yesterday named a loyal moderate, Ivan Rybkin, to replace controversial retired general Alexander Lebed as his security chief.

Yeltsin dramatically sacked Lebed on Thursday, accusing him of a lack of team spirit and naked presidential ambitions. Yesterday he dismissed him as his representative in Chechnya.

In a short meeting, filmed by Yeltsin's press service, the president told Rybkin: "I am sure you will succeed. Good luck."

The meeting took place in the Barvikha sanatorium outside

Moscow, where the 65-year-old Kremlin leader is preparing for heart surgery, expected in mid-November.

Lebed reacted in typically scornful manner, dismissing Rybkin as an incompetent bureaucrat. Interfax news agency quoted Lebed as saying Rybkin is "unable to ensure the security of the country at a time when there are many dangers facing it."

Under Rybkin, the Security Council would "turn into a quiet bureaucratic office that no one will know about," Lebed said. The Kremlin press service said Yeltsin urged Rybkin to work in close cooperation with all branches of power in Russia. Lebed, in his four months in office, antagonized much of the Russian establishment.

The meeting took place in the Barvikha sanatorium outside

Two SLA soldiers killed by Hizbullah bomb

Monitoring committee stops short of blaming Israel for civilian deaths

HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies

TWO South Lebanese Army soldiers were killed and two badly wounded when a roadside bomb set off by Hizbullah gunmen exploded near their patrol in south Lebanon on Friday, security sources said.

They said the bomb exploded as the SLA militia patrol passed in the Jarmaq area in the early morning in the central sector of the security zone.

Two SLA men were immediately killed and two seriously wounded in the incident, bringing to 16 the number of militiamen killed in south Lebanon this year. Hizbullah attacks have also claimed the lives of 21 IDF soldiers this year.

In Beirut, a Hizbullah spokesman claimed responsibility for the attack.

Two civilians were wounded yesterday when UN peacekeepers detonated four land mines in south Lebanon, security sources said.

The sources said the anti-personnel explosives were uncovered by the civilians.

A UNIFIL patrol that happened to be traveling in the region detonated the land mines planted on the side of the road, near Tyre, with the help of a special UN team of explosive engineers and Lebanese army liaison officers.

The sources said two civilians were wounded as they watched the peacekeepers blow up the mine. One of them, a 21 year old, was taken to a south Lebanon hospital for treatment after he was hit by a shrapnel in his stomach while the other, 18, was treated on the spot.

Yesterday, terrorists fired mortars at SLA positions near Jezzine. No one was wounded and no dam-

age was caused. IDF and SLA forces returned fire.

Meanwhile, the committee monitoring the Operation Grapes of Wrath cease-fire said Friday that it "deplored" the injuries caused to Lebanese civilians in Safed el-Batikh resulting from the recent IDF shelling there, but stopped short of blaming Israel.

The announcement was issued through the US State Department by David Greenlee, the America official who chairs the committee.

The statement held Israel at fault, saying the committee's investigation "confirmed that the injuries and destruction were caused by Israeli artillery fire."

The committee met from Monday through Friday at Nakoura, concluding its discussions on the October 11 incident in the morning, the IDF Spokesman said in a statement.

During the discussions, an inspection was made of the sites where the IDF shelling occurred. The committee concluded that three houses were damaged in the village north of the security zone and a number of civilians were injured in IDF shelling, in retaliation for a Hizbullah attack on a South Lebanese Army position and IDF soldiers in zone.

However, the IDF Spokesman issued an announcement saying the committee had not placed direct blame on Israel for the incident and did not conclude that Israel had violated the cease-fire understandings, as Lebanon and Syria had demanded.

Lebanon had complained to the group that the IDF shelling injured 13 Lebanese and caused infra-

structure damage. (Continued on Page 2)

Knesset snub clouds Chirac visit

DAVID MAKOVSKY and LIAT COLLINS

FRENCH President Jacques Chirac, who arrives here tomorrow, is to address the quasi-parliament Palestinian Council in Ramallah on Wednesday, but has pointedly declined Israel's invitation to address the Knesset. His decision has aroused resentment here at an apparent snubbing of Israel's capital.

The French steadfastly deny their decision is an affront to Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem, made in response to Israel's insistence that French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette not visit the Palestinians' Orient House in Jerusalem. It will be sending a deputy health minister to make the visit instead.

The director-general of President Ezer Weizman's bureau, Aryeh Shumer, is to meet today with Foreign Ministry and Knesset officials and the French ambassador in an effort to work out a face-saving compromise for the diplomatic crisis.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon has announced he will cancel his participation in all special events planned for Chirac's visit unless he includes the Knesset in his itinerary.

"It is customary to hold a special

festive session at the Knesset on such occasions, at which the guest can address the plenum. This was the case with Chirac's predecessor, Francois Mitterrand, when he visited," Tichon said yesterday.

"The French president is a most distinguished guest and the Knesset is the most distinguished institution in Israel. I respect the president's decision to visit the Palestinian Legislative Council, but I am surprised at his decision not to visit the Knesset, which is the only democratic parliament in the region, representing all opinions and views in the country," Tichon said.

He said Israel has conveyed its "disappointment" to Paris via both Israel's ambassador there and the French ambassador in Tel Aviv. Tichon said he still hopes the president will include the Knesset on his schedule.

Labor faction chairman MK Ra'anan Cohen sent a telegram to Chirac asking him to reconsider his decision. "The Knesset represents the entire Israeli public," Cohen said. "A visit to the Knesset, like a visit to the Western Wall, is an obligation which goes beyond such considerations as (Continued on Page 2)

Advertisement for 'PEASOUPER' featuring a man with a knife and text about a sharp knife to the underbelly of Victorian morality.



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Officials deny reports of Assad agreeing to restart peace talks

SENIOR officials denied weekend press reports suggesting that former senior State Department official Edward Djerejian brought back from Damascus on Thursday a commitment by Syrian President Hafez Assad to unconditionally restart peace talks with Israel.

DAVID MAKOVSKY

1995 unsigned paper reached with Labor on Golan-related security arrangement principles, and adopts the verbal conditional suggestion by Yitzhak Rabin that he would cede the whole Golan up to the June 4, 1967 lines if he received satisfactory resolution of crucial security arrangements details and normalization of ties.

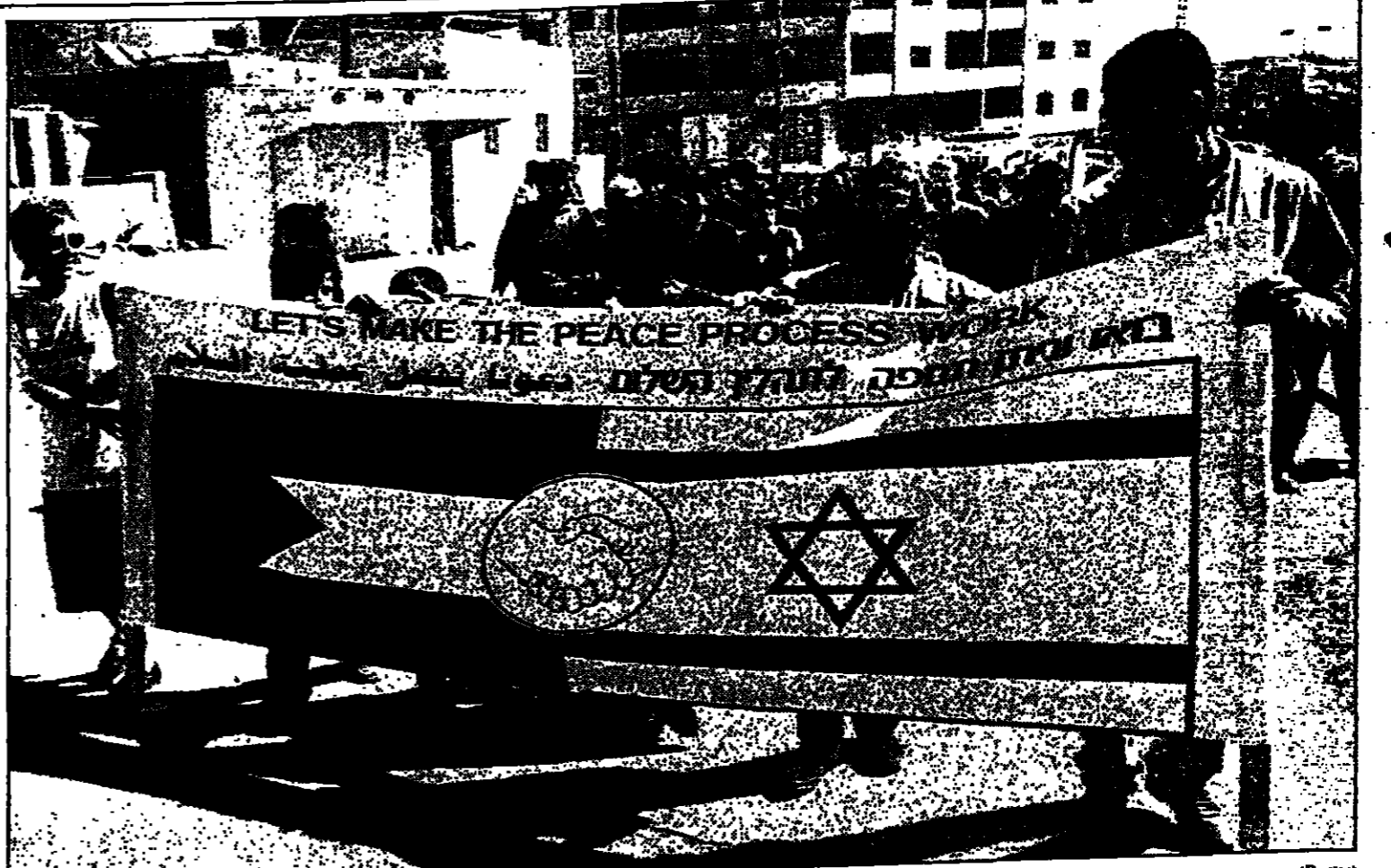
Djerejian, a former US ambassador to Syria and Israel before becoming head of the James Baker Center for Public Policy at Rice University, met Netanyahu before going to Damascus.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has formally said he would consider both, but at the same time, he absolutely rejects

the notion of being bound by either past move by Labor. Therefore, given the months-long deadlock, there is no indication that such talks will resume.

Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser Dore Gold last night sought to make it absolutely clear that Israel will not accept any outside mediator, and is sticking to current US officials.

While thanking Djerejian for his impressions, Gold said, "We don't use former diplomats as a conduit for sensitive issues with Syria such as resumption of talks. The only channel is the official channel."



Meretz activists and Palestinians march together down the main street leading into Ramallah on Friday.

Woman and children settlers protest any troop withdrawal from Hebron

SOME 100 Israeli women and children blocked the entrance to IDF military headquarters in Hebron Friday to protest any pull-out from the city.

News agencies

settler activist and leader of the group.

The group, residents of Kiryat Arba and Hebron, arrived in three buses to the site in a demonstration organized by the Women in Green.

"We demand from Binyamin Netanyahu that he keep his promises and not redeploy from Hebron," she added.

"The redeployment will put the Jewish people in danger, not only the 400 Jews in Hebron, but also those in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and everywhere," said Nadia Matar, a

The settlers unfurled Israeli flags at the site and shouted slogans against the expected redeployment of IDF soldiers in Hebron.

The group said the Israeli gov-

ernment intended to put "terrorists in uniform" in the city.

Matar, an Efrat resident, said the settlers "know that there are dovish and hawkish wings in the Likud; we do not know who will overcome, but we demand that Netanyahu ensure our security."

Democratic Arab Party MK, Abdel Wahab Darawshe toured Hebron on Friday and met with Mayor Mustafa Natshe. He expressed solidarity with Hebron residents and protested the delay in IDF redeployment in the city.

NEWS IN BRIEF

One killed, four hurt on roads

One person was killed and four were injured, one seriously, in two road accidents over the weekend. Driver Mohammed Tarbaya, 46, of Tamra in Western Galilee died in hospital of injuries sustained when his car collided head-on with another near Segev yesterday afternoon. The driver of the second car was listed in satisfactory condition at Nahariya Government Hospital. In Sha'arei Tikva, a two-year-old girl was seriously injured and two men lightly hurt in a two-car collision Friday morning. During the past week 10 persons were killed, among them two pedestrians and one bicyclist, and 30 others were seriously injured on the country's roads. Since the beginning of the year 481 persons have died in road accidents. *Itim*

Eitan: Fire Brodet immediately

Coalition chairman MK Michael Eitan yesterday demanded that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor immediately dismiss Finance Ministry Director-General David Brodet over derogatory remarks Brodet made about the cabinet in the press.

Eitan said that Brodet's comments in *Yediot Aharonot* that "he felt embarrassed about what happened in the cabinet" no longer make it possible for him to serve as a senior civil servant. It is inconceivable that a civil servant act to oppose the government, and Brodet's continuing in the post damages the government and is a source of ammunition against it, Eitan said. Meridor last night expressed full confidence in Brodet, Israel Radio reported. *Itim*

Haredim continue Rehov Bar-Ilan protests

Hundreds of haredim demonstrated along Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan on Friday night and yesterday evening, in the second straight week of renewed protests to press for the closure of the road on Shabbat. The protests had been stopped for two months. Police said the protests resumed since the Zameret Committee considering the issue of Shabbat road closures is due to issue its recommendations soon. Yesterday, demonstrators also threw stones at passing cars and pushed garbage bins into the street. Despite the protests, police said the road remained opened and no arrests were made. *Itim*

Campaign for family reunification

Israeli and Palestinian families plan to join forces in a campaign to reunify thousands of Palestinian families who have been split up due to Jerusalem residency laws, Bat Shalom women's rights organization head Dafna Golan announced yesterday. The organization will match Palestinians applying for Jerusalem residency status with Israeli families who have volunteered to help them by writing letters to politicians, attending protests and other activities. *Heidi J. Gleit*

Chaining patients to beds protested

The Israel Medical Association wrote a letter to the director-general of Hadassah-University Hospital, with a copy to Defense of Children International last week, saying "chaining patients to their bed should be prevented." The letter came after two boys, aged 13 and 16, both wounded during clashes with the IDF in September, were cuffed to their beds for four days in Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem despite serious stomach wounds which prevented them from moving. The hand and leg cuffs were removed by doctors after complaints by human rights organizations. The IDF posted a soldier at the exit to the ward instead. *Jon Immanuel*

Nanny sues Sara Netanyahu for back pay

A former nanny has sued Sara Netanyahu for NIS 86,674 in back pay, according to court documents obtained Friday. Tanya Shaw, a 21-year-old immigrant from South Africa, first made headlines in July by telling newspapers that Netanyahu tossed her unceremoniously into the street with her belongings after she burned a pot of soup. In the suit filed Thursday, Shaw claimed the Netanyahu never paid her for her last month of employment and owed her overtime for long work days. Shaw's lawyer, Moshe Zingel, said labor laws also applied to au pairs. The case will be heard in court in the next month. *News agencies*

BOMB

(Continued from Page 1) structure damage. It said the attack violated the April 26 understanding brokered by Secretary of State Warren Christopher that called for civilian areas to neither be targeted nor used as a base for attacks.

Israel expressed sorrow for the injuries and damage but said it was "an unintended result of defensive counterfire following a Hizbullah mortar attack" and maintained the counterattack was "in a proportionate and restrained manner," the statement issued by the US read.

Syria and Lebanon disputed the Israeli claim, calling the shelling "deliberate" and aimed at "raising tension to prepare the ground for a wide Israeli military action."

The committee's military authority investigated the claims and counter-claims on both sides of the border, it added.

The committee is composed of the US and France (which chair it on a rotating basis), Israel, Lebanon and Syria.

A Hizbullah spokesman last night blasted the report for not condemning Israel, Israel Radio reported.

Meretz holds joint Jewish/Arab march in Ramallah

DOZENS of Meretz Party members, led by MKs Dedi Zucker, Anat Maor and Walid Sadek, marched with scores of Ramallah residents on Friday from the Jerusalem-Ramallah road to the Al-Bireh Municipality.

At the municipality, the nearly 120 marchers held a news conference that included Ramallah representatives of the Palestine National Council, the head of Fatah in the territories, Marwan Barghout, and Ramallah area security chief Abu Walid. Maor told the rally that the

Meretz delegation had come to show solidarity with the residents of Al-Bireh and Ramallah by joining in a protest against the continuing delays in the peace process.

Secretary-General Zahava Galon told the gathering that Meretz "would do everything, in allied forces with the Palestinian people, so as not to let the bullets that murdered prime minister Yitzhak Rabin a year ago murder the process of pacification between the [two] peoples." *(Itim)*

Police recommend indicting 'Yediot' publisher

RAINE MARCUS

THE National Crimes Squad has concluded its investigation of senior *Yediot Aharonot* personnel and recommended to the district attorney that the daily's publisher, Nomi Mozes, and security officer Haim Rozenberg be indicted on various charges, according to police sources.

Both Mozes and Rozenberg were questioned over the past few months on suspicion of ordering wiretapping of their rivals at *Ma'ariv* and various businessmen via private investigator Ze'ev Lanfer. Mozes was also questioned about allegedly using *Yediot*

money to pay for such services without the knowledge of shareholders, whom he is currently fighting for control of the paper in Tel Aviv District Court.

Mozes's cousin, Ze'ev Mozes, and members of the Yudkovsky family (Dov Yudkovsky was the former editor in chief of *Yediot* and still has shares in the daily) have filed complaints to police about Nomi Mozes's alleged financial irregularities.

Yediot shareholders accuse him and his immediate family members of illegally taking control of the daily. A verdict is to be given shortly on the future role of shareholders.

Cohen: Less than 10% of reservists called up served in recent duty

ONLY 29 of 331 reservists called up recently for reserve guard duty in Nabulus actually served, or less than 10 percent, Labor MK Ra'anan Cohen said yesterday.

In a statement issued by the Labor Party last night, Cohen said he had called for an urgent meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee with Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and the head of IDF manpower to discuss the problem of evasion of reserve duty in the territories.

Cohen said that the chief IDF education officer had been instructed to call up for training today hundreds of reservists who have been serving as lecturers. According to Cohen, these lecturers have not been called up years, have not had target practice and are not fit to serve in sensitive areas in the territories.

He noted that reservists who return from service in the settlements and the Nabulus area complain of a lack of training, unclear instructions, a lack of vehicles, and being treated with contempt by settlers.

This, he said, only a few weeks after six soldiers were killed at Joseph's Tomb in Nabulus guarding the site. *(Itim)*

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of my husband, our father, grandfather and great-grandfather

Rabbi SEYMOUR ZAMBROWSKY ז"ל

in Jerusalem on Shabbat Kodesh, October 19, 1996.

A man of virtue and lover of mankind, Rabbi Zambrowsky ז"ל was a past president of World Mizrahi-Hapoel Mizrahi and chairman of Mizrahi Canada, and one of the founders of Bar-Ilan University and a member of its board of directors.

For funeral arrangements please call: 02-566-2170.

The family:
Wife, Belle
Daughter, Rona and her husband, Rabbi Karpol Bender
Son, Joshua, and his wife, Sue-Ann
Grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Shiva at his home: Rehov Ahad Ha'am 16, Jerusalem.

ESTHER LEAH SHECKMAN

On the first yahrzeit since her reinterment in Israel we would like to announce the unveiling today, Sunday, October 20, 1996, at Shikun Vatikim Cemetery, Netanya. We will meet at the gate at 11:15 a.m.

Dorothy and Gus Stone
Martlyn and Dicky Refson

ברוך דין אמת

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our father and grandfather

Reb JONA ZEEV
son of Chaver Dov Wolpe ז"ל

The funeral took place on Friday, October 18, 1996 (5 Heshvan, 5757) Shiva at Kibbutz Lavi

May the Almighty comfort you together with all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

Son: Dov and Miriam Wolpe
Daughter: Yehudit and Jerry Franke

Grandchildren and great-grandchildren
Beit Kibbutz Lavi

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OPENING OF SEASON 96/7 AT THE PHILHARMONIC

Zubin Mehta, conductor Sharon Sweet, soprano Barbara Dever, mezzo-soprano Keith Italia Perry, tenor Dean Peterson bass-baritone The Prague Philharmonic Choir directed by Pavel Kocian Program: Beethoven: Missa Solemnis Sun., 20.10, 8:30 p.m., T.A. Concert 1 Series A In memory of Yona Etlinger Tue., 22.10, 7:30 p.m., T.A. Concert 1 Series B Thu., 24.10, 8:30 p.m., T.A. Concert 1 Series C Sat., 26.10, 8:30 p.m., T.A. Concert 1 Series D In memory of those killed in the Israeli Embassy and the AMJA building in Argentina Sun., 27.10, 8:30 p.m., Haifa, Concert 1 Series A Wed., 30.10, 8:30 p.m., Haifa, Concert 1 Series C	Zubin Mehta, conductor Laura Aikin, soprano Barbara Dever, mezzo-soprano Dean Van Der Walt, tenor Dean Peterson bass-baritone The Prague Philharmonic Choir directed by Pavel Kocian Program: Handel: Messiah Mon., 21.10, 8:30 p.m., T.A. Concert 1 Series B Wed., 23.10, 8:30 p.m., T.A. Concert 1 Series C Fri., 25.10, 7:30 p.m., T.A. Concert 1 Series D Sun., 27.10, 8:30 p.m., Haifa, Concert 1 Series B Tue., 29.10, 8:30 p.m., T.A. Concert 1 Series C Thu., 31.10, 8:30 p.m., T.A. Concert 1 Series E	Zubin Mehta, conductor Sharon Sweet, Laura Aikin, soprano Barbara Dever, mezzo-soprano Program: Arias from operas by Verdi Works by Johann Strauss, Josef Strauss, Richard Strauss Mon., 28.10, 20:30 p.m., T.A., Light Classical In honour of Roland and Eve Etal YOUTH SERIES Zubin Mehta, conductor The Maestro's Young Guests Wed., 23.10, 8:30 p.m., T.A., Concert 1 Youth series
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האזנה מן האולם

Iraqi-backed Kurds push against PUK in Sulaimaniya offensive

ARBIL, Iraq (Reuters) - The Iraqi-backed Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) hit out on three fronts on yesterday, as it moved forward on Sulaimaniya, the stronghold of the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

"We took the town of Ranya early this morning. We went to Ranya along three routes, along Hiran, Balisan, and Koy Sanjak, flushing the PUK out as we went," said Zaim Ali, the local KDP commander.

Ali said the KDP had lost 22 men in the latest fighting, while the PUK had lost more than 60. There was no independent confirmation.

"Once we clean up our Iranian border, we will move our forces towards Sulaimaniya," he said.

The latest fighting between the two rival Kurdish factions broke out around August 31, when the KDP sought help from Iraqi forces to capture Arbil from the PUK.

The KDP went on to capture all three Kurdish provinces in the region, but last week the PUK

began a counter-assault, retaking Sulaimaniya and advancing back to Arbil.

The KDP, after losing some ground, appears now to be on the offensive, although PUK claims that Iraqi forces have again intervened to help the KDP are denied by the group and cannot be confirmed.

An official at the KDP's headquarters in the nearby town of Salahuddin said the capture of Ranya was part of a strategy to assault a series of positions near the Iranian border to cut off the PUK from what the KDP says are its Iranian allies.

KDP leader Massoud Barzani was on his way to Ranya, and the guerrillas were moving their heavy weapons east towards the newly-fallen town.

The KDP official in Salahuddin said the faction was attacking the PUK on two other fronts - at Chuman to the northeast close to the border with Iran and the towns of Khalakan and Kani Watman near the key Dukan Dam south of Ranya.

The Dukan Dam supplies power to most of the area around the main regional city of Arbil.

Senior US diplomat Robert Pelletreau was due to hold talks with Barzani next week - probably in Turkey - to try and end to the latest conflict between the two Kurdish groups.

Washington was set to evacuate hundreds of Kurds who worked for US-affiliated groups in northern Iraq, nominally under Western protection since the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

"Around 700 (including family) are due to cross soon," an official at the Habur border crossing with Iraq told Reuters.

The Kurds are due to stay in the Turkish border town of Sitopi before leaving for the Pacific island of Guam.

The United States evacuated more than 2,000 Kurds, including family, who had worked for them as drivers, translators, guides, computer operators, and reportedly even as spies, after Baghdad intervened in last month's fighting.

Afghan government forces capture key positions

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan (Reuters) - Government forces backed by the artillery of Uzbek Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum captured Bagram military airfield north of Kabul overnight, witnesses said yesterday.

They also seized two other important objectives: the nearby Bagram junction and the town of Qara Bagh.

Reporters who travelled to the scene of the attacks, about 60 km. north of the capital, found Taliban forces that held the positions on Friday had retreated.

Tanks and troops loyal to government commander Ahmad Shah Masood were in firm control of all three locations.

Hundreds of Masood's heavily armed fighters strolled along the main road inside the airbase on yesterday, smiling and shouting greetings to comrades arriving by the truck-load.

Government tanks clanked into new positions around the perimeter of the base, which looked more like an aircraft disassembly line than the powerful military airfield it was during the heyday of the Soviet Union's occupation of Afghanistan.

About 15 dilapidated fighter aircraft, transport planes, and helicopter carcasses of Soviet style and vintage, were parked along the taxiways near the hangers or on the grass infields - all well past their sell-by date.

The airfield buildings were decrepit and rusted, with bullet-riddled metal facades and shattered windows - most seemingly from ancient

battles rather than recent fighting.

Out along the main runway, which sits in a plain surrounded by snow-capped mountains, at least eight jet fighters sat flanked by blast barriers, in position, if not in condition, to fly.

Government troops said Taliban militiamen had mined the area around the planes, making it impossible to approach them for closer inspection.

Although reporters saw the bodies of two dead Taliban fighters on the runway, the base itself bore little evidence of the fierce rocket and artillery barrage from Masood and Dostum forces which finally dislodged the Taliban shortly after dark on Friday evening.

Most of the fighting apparently occurred along trench lines at the perimeter of the sprawling facility.

Bagram town, also undamaged, was occupied by government troops, as were the junctions for the old and new roads south to Kabul.

Qara Bagh, about 45 km. north of Kabul and south of the Bagram junction on the old road, was also firmly in the hands of Masood's forces.

"We captured Qara Bagh last night at about two in the morning. We came with three tanks and 600 men and the Taliban withdrew without a fight," said a beaming Karim Mohab Rahman, Masood's commander in the area. "We captured three tanks, six trucks, and a lot of ammunition, now we are ready to push them

out of Kabul."

It appeared yesterday afternoon that Taliban troops were trying to form a new defensive line about 10 km. south of Qara Bagh and about the same distance south of Bagram.

The capture of Bagram and Qara Bagh has shown that the combined forces of Masood and Dostum would be a match for Taliban.

Masood, at one time the government defense minister, and Dostum, an independent military power who has been Masood's sometime rival and enemy, have joined to confront the common threat they perceive from Taliban forces who captured Kabul three weeks ago.

Ultra-conservative in their interpretation of Islam, largely Pashtun in their ethnic makeup, and alleged to be deeply in the pocket of neighboring Pakistan, the Taliban have earned the ire of Masood's northern Tajiks and Dostum's Uzbeks.

Dostum's front-line commander in the hills northwest of Qara Bagh said that his tanks and artillery had fired upon Taliban forces around Bagram on Friday after themselves being targeted.

But he said his forces were not advancing, even though Masood's forces were pushing south towards Kabul.

Unanswered was the question whether Masood intends to try to press on to Kabul without Dostum, or whether there might be a pause to give peace talks which have been underway this week a chance to bear fruit.

Poll shows Dole in post-debate gain

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Republican Bob Dole closed the gap in his race with President Bill Clinton for a second straight day, following the Wednesday presidential debate, according to yesterday's daily Reuters tracking poll.

Dole got 36.8 percent in the John Zogby Group International poll, up from 34.6%, against 44.6% for Clinton, up from 43.6%.

The poll of 900 likely voters, with a 3.3% margin of error, showed support for independent candidate Ross Perot fell to 5.1% from 5.8%.

Zogby said today's poll would likely see further Dole gains because they reflected a rolling average of three days, and Wednesday's results were low, while the post-debate results on Thursday and Friday rose.

But he added that while Dole increased his margin after the first debate, it later fell off.

Zogby said yesterday's poll showed Dole winning support from his Republican base, but he has not broken new ground.

He said Dole has not won over political moderates or got new support among white men.

"What we're seeing here is the result of Republicans coming back home. But that is not going to be enough," he said.

Zogby said if today's figures show another Dole increase, "we are looking at a tightening of the race. But the magic number for Dole is 40%. He has failed to reach that number in our poll or anyone's."

In House races, the poll showed Republicans ahead 41.5% to 37.5%, a drop from Friday's showing of 39.5% to 38.7%, and in the Senate, the Republicans led by 42.7% to 37.4%, against 41.1% to 37.9% on Friday.

Zogby said Republicans are now seemingly safe in both the Senate and House, but if Clinton widens his lead, that could change.

"Our rule is that if Clinton is ahead by 10 points," he said, "the Democrats take the House, and if there is a 13 point lead, the Democrats take the Senate."

NEWS IN BRIEF

German police find body of Fisman

WIESBADEN (Reuters) - German police said yesterday a body they had found in woodland outside Frankfurt was almost certainly that of kidnapped multimillionaire Jakob Fisman. "According to the information we have so far, we believe that in all probability, verging on certainty, the body is that of Jakob Fisman," regional police chief Klaus Timm told a news conference.

Fisman was kidnapped outside his office on October 1 and the last sign that he was alive came when he made a telephone call to a friend the following day. Timm said the body was found partly covered by leaves and a fallen tree near in woodland around 50 km. from Frankfurt. "I can't make any statement on the cause of death or whether he was killed where he was found," he added.

Tens of thousands flee Zaire fighting

KIGALI (Reuters) - Some 46,000 Rwandan and Burundian Hutu refugees have fled two camps in eastern Zaire, where the Zairean army is battling ethnic Tutsis, a spokesman for the UN refugee agency said yesterday.

"The populations of both Kagunga and Rumungo (camps), some 46,000 refugees, have all moved - some to Uvira, some into the hills above Uvira, some into banana plantations, and the remainder have dispersed," said Paul Stromberg, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in neighboring Rwanda. "Because of difficulty in assessing the area outside Uvira, even normal activities are in question. We have only been able to distribute aid in and around Uvira."

N. Ireland Protestants stage peaceful parade

LONDONDERRY (Reuters) - A Protestant parade which had raised Northern Ireland tension went off almost without incident yesterday. Angry Catholic demonstrators protesting at what they called triumphalism boomed and jeered and a few bottles were thrown, as 200 members of the Protestant Apprentice Boys order marched around Londonderry's city walls. But fears of fresh violence erupting in a highly-charged climate after the bombing of Britain's Northern Ireland army base by Catholic-backed IRA terrorists almost two weeks ago proved unfounded.

Egypt to try 19 for tourist, cinema attacks

CAIRO (Reuters) - Egypt will put on trial 19 suspected Moslem militants on charges of bombing a busload of Austrian tourists and raking a Cairo cinema with machine-gun fire in December 1993, security sources said yesterday. They said Attorney-General Hisham Saraya had not yet set a date for the trial at the State Supreme Court. Saraya's office also said the men killed police Col. Ahmed Shalash outside his home in Cairo in 1994, and that they had attempted to assassinate other key political figures.

The 19 defendants, including two juveniles, were also charged with belonging to Egypt's largest militant group, the Gama'a al-Islamiya (Islamic Group).

Egypt has so far sentenced around 70 people to death, 53 of whom have been executed. About six are on death row and 16 on the run.

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YOUTH SEES

US warned of nerve gas danger during Gulf War - report

NEW YORK (Reuters) - US military commanders were warned repeatedly by Czech soldiers that they had identified Iraqi chemical weapons on the Gulf War battlefield, and that the toxins were wafting over unprotected American troops, *The New York Times* reported yesterday.

Citing interviews with Czech soldiers, who received training in chemical detection, the Czech patrols in the northern Saudi Arabian desert in January 1991 were convinced that nerve gas detected in the early days of the war had been released from bombed Iraqi chemical plants, the newspaper said in a special report.

Despite the reputation for reliability of the Czech army and its chemical equipment, combat logs compiled by officers working for Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf show that American commanders ignored Czech warnings that low

levels of nerve and mustard gas had been detected near American troops.

Czech soldiers told the *Times* that even as they pulled on gas masks and rubberized chemical warfare suits, the Americans only several hundred feet away remained unprotected.

Like thousands of Gulf war veterans in the US, many Czech troops have also fallen ill since the war. Former Czech military officials say the US Defense Department was informed after the war that Czech soldiers were suffering from many of the same health problems affecting US veterans.

The newspaper said that interviews with Czech soldiers and officials raised new doubts about the public accounts offered by the Pentagon, which has come under harsh criticism in recent months over its treatment of thousands of Gulf war veterans

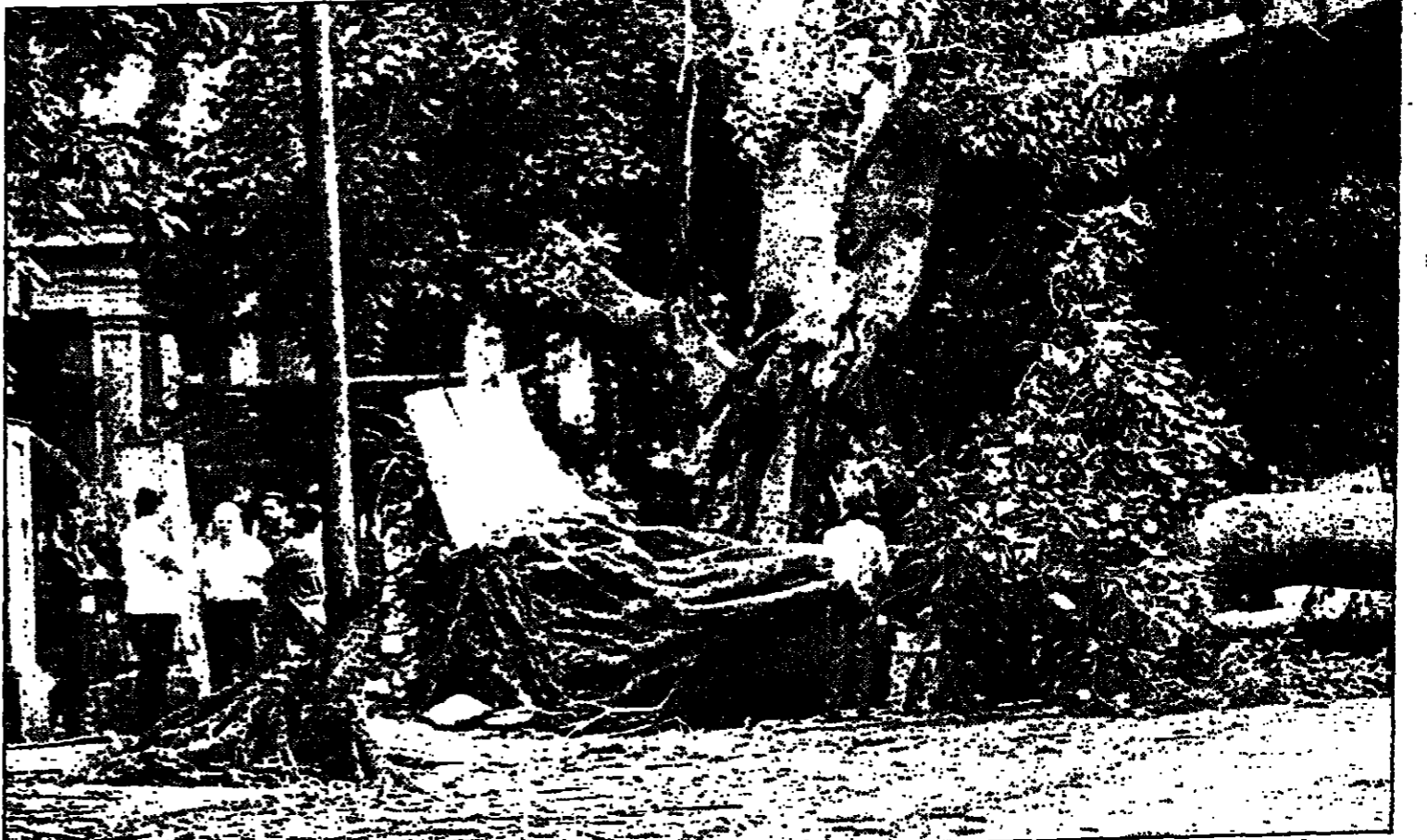
who say they are sick because of exposure to chemical or biological weapons.

The Pentagon acknowledged this month that more than 15,000 American troops may have been exposed to nerve gas when a battalion of American combat engineers blew up an Iraqi ammunition depot in March 1991, a few days after the end of the war.

The Pentagon publicly confirmed in November 1993 that the Czech chemical detections were "credible" - in other words that chemical weapons had indeed been detected.

In a statement released in response to the *Times* inquiry, the Pentagon said, "we have found no evidence that coalition commanders failed to respond to any of the Czech reports of detections."

It also said that the Defense Department had never intended to mislead American veterans about the health of the Czech troops.



Residents in Matanzas province east of Havana survey damage left by hurricane Lily on Friday. Lily's 150 kph winds and torrential rains missed the Cuban capital. (Reuters)

Hurricane Lili lashes Bahamas, as Cuba surveys cost of damage

SAN SALVADOR, Bahamas (Reuters) - Hurricane Lili hit the Bahamas head on yesterday, ripping off roofs, snapping palm trees, and downing telegraph poles, but no casualties were reported.

Lily pounded the port of Cockburn on San Salvador island and tore through a holiday resort, frightening foreign tourists, many of whom did not know what to expect. Driving rain lashed San Salvador all night but eased in the morning, witnesses said.

Cuba, meanwhile, counted the cost of damage from Hurricane Lili, with authorities saying the storm caused widespread damage to crops including citrus fruits and bananas.

No overall figures were issued for damage by the hurricane, which swept over central and western areas of the communist-ruled island on

Thursday night and on Friday.

There were no casualties reported but about 7,000 homes were damaged, most of them partially, state media said. Some areas of central Cuba were still without power yesterday.

Power was restored to most parts of Havana late on Friday.

Farm workers on the Isle of Youth to the south of mainland Cuba were rushing to recover 15,000 tons of citrus fruits blown to the ground by the storm.

San Salvador's airport control tower was toppled and in Cockburn, home to most of the island's 700 residents, roofs and balconies were torn off.

Driftwood and debris were strewn across beaches and the normally clear blue waters boiled in a dark morass.

At the Club Med resort, angry tourists complained they received little advice about how to cope with a hurricane.

About 260 vacationers, mostly Germans, Americans, and French, were booked into the resort. Club Med spokeswoman Margo Leader said no one was hurt as far as she knew. The complex suffered considerable damage however. Even though the holiday huts are hurricane proof, many roofs were sheered off.

San Salvador, a 40 km-long island, claims to be the first place in the New World where explorer Christopher Columbus stepped foot in 1492.

Flooding from the storm was blamed for 10 deaths in Nicaragua, Honduras, and Costa Rica earlier in the week.

Rybin exact opposite of ousted Lebed

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Ivan Rybin, named yesterday as Russia's new security chief after Alexander Lebed's abrupt dismissal, is as quiet as his predecessor was loud, which could go a long way to explaining why he was given the job.

President Boris Yeltsin, fresh from sacking the volatile Lebed for stirring up trouble in the Kremlin, chose Rybin to fill the posts of secretary to the Security Council and his representative in breakaway Chechnya.

The short, soft-spoken Rybin is a civilian and does his best to avoid making enemies. He is unlikely to seek a central stage in Kremlin politics and, although a former communist, is loyal to Yeltsin.

He could not be more different from Lebed, a tall outspoken

reserve general with a booming voice and a love of publicity who very much wants to be president.

Rybin told Itar-Tass news agency after his appointment that he would continue Lebed's efforts to bring peace to Chechnya, "but in a businesslike manner, without fuss and noise."

He turns 50 today and Gennady Seleznyov, communist speaker of the State Duma lower house of parliament, told Interfax news agency that Yeltsin had made Rybin "a present worthy of a tsar."

"He is a very calm person inclined to search for compromises," said former Russian reform guru Yegor Gaidar.

In December 1993, Rybin was elected to the Duma on the list of the conservative Agrarian Party, and in early 1994 was chosen to be

speaker of the parliament.

He gradually turned into a Yeltsin ally, while keeping a certain distance between himself and the president and taking care not to antagonize his former parties.

Rybin chose a moderate position throughout his two-year career as speaker, firmly steering the Duma away from any clashes with the president.

Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov said Rybin had wanted "to get everyone to agree with everyone."

Born in a peasant family in the central Voronezh region, Ivan Petrovich Rybin started his career in agriculture before taking up politics. He won a parliamentary seat in 1990, 1993, and 1995.

He is married and has two daughters.

Solving poverty tough task for next Nicaraguan leader

MANAGUA (Reuters) - The winner of Nicaragua's presidential election will face the monumental task of rebuilding the economy of one of Latin America's poorest countries, where more than half the population lacks a job.

The main contenders in today's election are right-wing lawyer Arnoldo Aleman of the Liberal Alliance and former president Daniel Ortega of the left-wing Sandinista Front.

Nicaragua was once known as the "breadbasket of Latin America" for its abundant farmland, but it has fallen on hard times following a bloody left-right civil war in the 1980s, a US blockade and a failed socialist economic policy.

Grinding poverty has turned into the central election issue - who can create the jobs to put food on the table of Nicaragua's poor.

Economist Mario Arana said the issue has benefited Ortega, whose popularity in the polls has soared from 20 percent at the start of 1996 to 39 percent today.

Ortega, who headed Nicaragua's Marxist Sandinista government from 1979 to 1990, is running a close second to Aleman. Today's election victor needs 45 percent of the votes to win outright. Otherwise the two top candidates will face each other in a runoff in late November or early December.

Recent polls show it is not clear whether a winner will emerge in the first round.

The statistics that will face the new president are daunting: 54% combined unemployment and underemployment, 75% of the population with unsatisfied basic needs, one of the highest debt burdens in the world, and an economy propped up by foreign aid.

Children crowd Managua's street corners begging for change, crime and prostitution are soaring, and the suicide rate is up 20% over 1995, police statistics show.

Wages are miserable for those Nicaraguans who have jobs. A doctor in a state hospital makes about \$100 a month, a nurse \$50-\$60 a month, and prostitutes get as little as \$5 a trick.

A 1996 United Nations study labeled Nicaragua the most underdeveloped country in Latin America after Haiti, citing per capita income, life expectancy, and educational levels.

A CID-Gallup poll showed that 77% of Nicaraguans think poverty is the most important election issue. The two leading presidential candidates have both made job creation their main priority, but are weak on details on how to do it.

O.J. lawyers to play the cop card

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) - Forget the "race card" in this O.J. Simpson trial, with its mostly white jury. Instead, members of the panel are willing to at least glance at another part of the hand his lawyers are dealing, the "cop card."

That entails the claim that some Los Angeles Police Department members, for whatever reason, planted and contaminated evidence to frame the American football star turned actor for the murder of ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. And it's a card that the defense will be playing big-time in opening statements this week.

The families of Ms. Simpson and Goldman are suing Simpson for unspecified damages, claiming he's responsible for their slaying. Simpson was acquitted in his criminal trial last October.

Race is an issue because Simpson is black and his ex-wife was white.

Although the panel includes nine whites (along with one black, one Hispanic, and one mixed Asian-black), they overwhelmingly indicated that they would listen to defense claims of police shenanigans and lying, a review of juror responses to questions shows.

One suggested he could embrace the idea.

"Of course, they cover up for each other," said a white man in his 40s.

The lesson here, according to Loyola University Law School Dean Laurie Levenson, is that analyzing a jury by race - even one in a case with such deep racial divisions - doesn't tell the entire story.

"The first thing the public will see is race, and make assumptions on that, and, frankly, they're bound to be wrong," she said.

"What's more important to the defense case is that they do have jurors who will be raising questions about the validity of the evidence."

Still, this jury may need some - perhaps a lot of - convincing that police turned bad in the Simpson case.

While the jurors selected last week said they could keep open minds about the contamination-planting argument, their responses appeared tepid, at best. Often, they simply answered "yes" to questions about whether they could listen to such a theory.

A white woman in her 40s, asked if she would have a parole agent with evidence about police planting evidence, responded: "I believe anything's possible."

Although the burden of proof isn't the "guilt beyond a reasonable doubt" standard from his criminal trial, it still requires the less onerous "preponderance of evidence."

Another juror, a white man in his 30s, was even less emphatic, saying of the likelihood of a police cover-up: "I really don't know."

More troubling for the defense are the jurors' life experiences. Most appear to have had little, if any contact, with law enforcement.

That is marked contrast to Simpson's criminal case, where many jurors came from neighborhoods where relations with police are often unpleasant.

Indeed, some members of this panel had opposite experiences - being victimized by criminals.

One juror, a black woman in her 60s, described getting robbed on a bus.

What's more, this woman, whose late husband was a parole agent, said she had sympathy for Fred Goldman, Ronald Goldman's father. "It's a person's worst nightmare to have your child die before you do," she said.

Another juror was a police officer's son, although he said he would set that aside in his deliberations. Another described law enforcement as a "honorable profession."

Yet Simpson can have some hope that a jury with just one black appears to show some signs of giving his defense a chance.

A white male in his 20s said he has heard on the news about police corruption all over the country, including police selling drugs. He doesn't believe all cops are all good or all bad.

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Yeltsin's unruly boyars

GENERAL Alexander Lebed on Friday joked after being fired as Russia's security supremo that he was going to a theater production on the life of Ivan the Terrible to pick up some hints on how to run the country. But for the moment it is President Boris Yeltsin who has borrowed a phrase from Russia's czars and "whipped the unruly boyars." Yeltsin cunningly replaced Lebed with Ivan the Moderate—the mild former Duma Speaker and pliant Yeltsin ally, Ivan Rybkin. But no one should labor under the delusion that we have heard the last of Gen. Alexander the Terrible.

Yet, on the other hand, it is hard to see Yeltsin being dragged once again into an unwinnable bloody conflict with the unrepentant rebels and his officials have at least proclaimed that Lebed's dismissal will not affect the peace process.

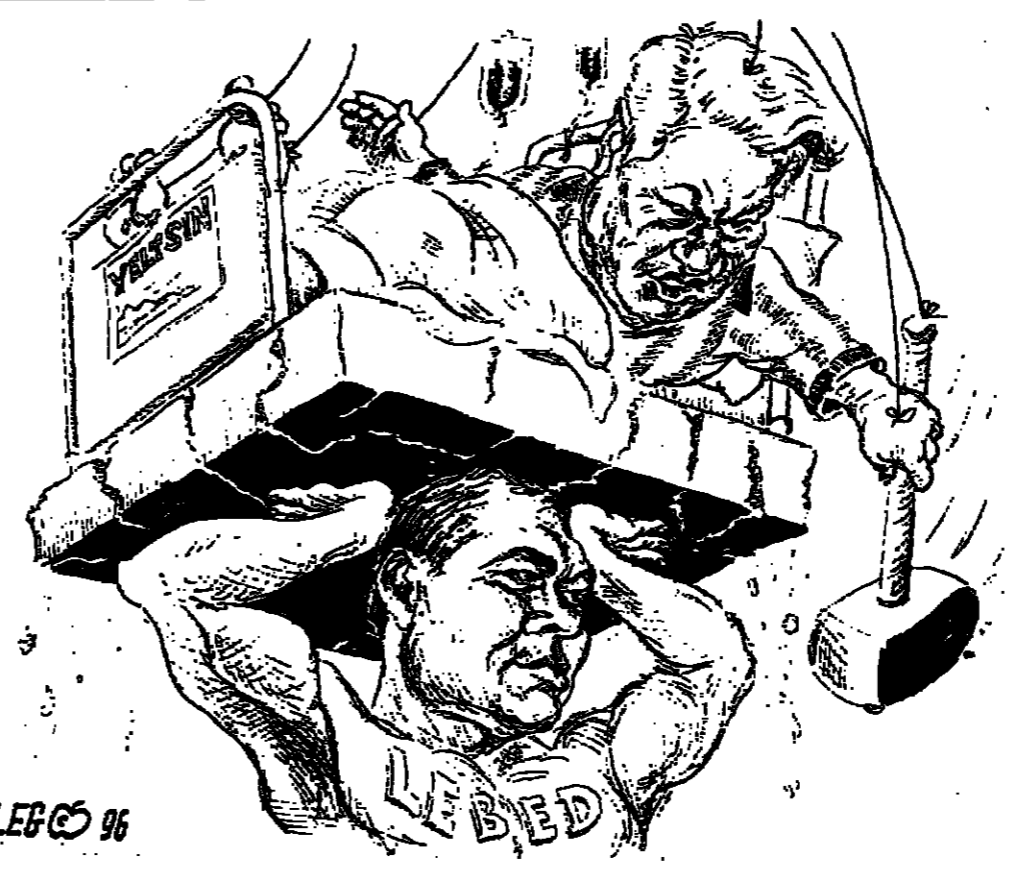
It was their humiliation at the hands of "a bunch of bandits" in Chechnya that has left many senior military officers seething about unfinished business there. The Lebed peace deal may have been welcomed by ordinary Russians fearful of Chechen terrorist attacks and fed up with sending their sons into the southern hell hole. But the many generals and their political allies called Lebed's rapidly concluded peace deal nothing more than appeasement and a capitulation which would fuel separatist ambitions elsewhere in the Russian federation.

But when Lebed said cryptically to reporters after he was fired that Russia could expect a "hot autumn" of military discontent he was not referring, as many thought, to Chechnya, but to the increasing rumbles of discontent from within the armed forces themselves. Army general staff officers have sent out letters setting an October 25th deadline to pay many servicemen the wages they have not received since July. It is another headache the ailing Yeltsin can do without and, whether he really believed it or not, it is clear Yeltsin was taking no chances that there might be a grain of truth in the rumors that Lebed was plotting to seize power with the help of disgruntled military echelons.

Giving Defense Minister Rodionov a new chief of staff he can control is Yeltsin's way of backing the painful military reforms Rodionov favors and for which he needs allies. Yeltsin has promised to make Russia's overstuffed and undertrained conscript forces fully professional by 2000, although even Rodionov thinks the timescale is unrealistic. Rodionov's first attempts to reform the military — by cutting 300,000 troops from the 1.5 million-strong forces — have met surprisingly powerful resistance from elite combat units, a resistance supported by Lebed, a former paratroops general. Yeltsin yesterday fired the deputy commander for voicing outspoken opposition to the cuts and on October 4th he fired the paratroops commander and five other generals.

As for Lebed himself, it is not surprising that his dismissal has been welcomed in Russia and abroad. It is all very well to joke about admiring Ivan the Terrible's methods, but Lebed has always carried the aura of one who admires the smack of strong government. Indeed it was this image which enabled him to do Russia a real favor and capture the "strong government" following from the dangerous and unstable Vladimir Zhirinovskiy who has vanished into near oblivion. But instead of Czar Ivan, Yeltsin should bear another historical fable in mind vis-a-vis Lebed. Hercules was exiled after being ordered to clean out the Augean stables, just as Lebed has been after cleaning up Chechnya. What is often forgotten is that Hercules later returned to slay King Augeas for asking him to do the dirty job in the first place.

OPINION



OLEG 96

Dreams & drama

IF we want to save the ideal of aliya from irrelevance and extinction, the call to aliya must undergo a radical transformation.

The community of crisis that fueled interest in aliya, making it into a live option for Jews, no longer exists. However difficult it may be for the Zionist movement to admit, the traditional survival-based language of aliya no longer mirrors the situation of the community today.

If Zionists are to avoid the frustration of issuing endless aliya proclamations that fall on deaf ears, they must understand the difference between the contexts of "mirroring" and of "aspiration."

Aliya must regain the inherent force of "going up," of aspiring to, of striving for something higher. It must become a concept that challenges a person head-on, that points to new life possibilities and alternatives, that disturbs an individual's complacency and self-satisfied going along with the status quo.

So how do you get the language of aliya to resonate in people's souls without sounding anachronistic or pointless? How do you move the focus of "aliya language" from crisis to personal conviction?

You cannot speak about aliya to people who do not appreciate the significance of Jewish spiritual aspirations. A crucial factor, therefore, is the quality of daily Jewish living.

If you are a Jew in Dallas, Texas, then one day you might want to be a Jew in Jerusalem. But if you aren't a Jew in Dallas, you will never want to be a Jew in Jerusalem.

Receptivity to the language of aliya is a function of the sense of Jewishness that permeates a person's daily life. Thus aliya cannot be separated from Jewish education. The aliya committee is inseparable from the Jewish education committee.

For my father, being Jewish and living as a committed Torah Jew were natural and self-evident.

His instinctive answer to my asking him about the meaning of Jewish observance was: "This is how my father lived, and how his father lived!" To my father, my questions were largely irrelevant because of the inherent power of

DAVID HARTMAN

the past that informed his present identity and practice. He could not sing a different tune.

While this was true of my father's world, for me and my generation tradition ceased to be self-evident. Knowledge and personal conviction were necessary if tradition was to become a life option. I had to choose to be Jewish.

Although I know that my family and early yeshiva education were

How do you get the language of aliya to resonate in people's souls?

profound influences on my life, I realize that, in contrast to my father's Jewish experience, the gift of my past had to be reappropriated through knowledge and personal conviction. In other words, I had to reclaim the past.

LEAVING Montreal, where I had built a synagogue and worked to further Jewish institutions and university studies, wasn't simple. Leaving a productive rabbinical and university career and uprooting a family from a normal and comfortable way of life were not easy decisions.

As I said to someone who asked why I made aliya: "I was among the few people in my congregation who listened to my sermons. What could I do? I was so inspired by the rhetoric of aspiration that I forgot about reality!"

After making aliya, however, I soon realized that the reality of Israel wasn't exactly what my sermons were about. It took me several years to bridge the gap between the Israel I had talked and dreamed about and the manic depressive quality of daily life in this country.

But with the dedication this week of the new Shalom Hartman Institute campus in Jerusalem, I feel vindicated, happy that I never lost my faith in an immigrant's ability to make a significant contribution to this country.

Without the powerful and

inspiring image of a Jewish national spiritual renaissance — an image of what I innocently believed Israel to be like — I would not have had the strength to uproot my family or persevere in coping with Israeli life.

I have come to understand from my own experience that the language of aspiration is both a catalyst for change and an important counterweight to the feelings of futility and despair that can undermine any attempt to effect change.

The "rhetoric" of hope and new possibilities isn't a regression into childish fantasy. It is essential for sustaining the vitality of a broader perception of what human life can be.

Aliya and Jewish education must be understood as integrated and interdependent issues. All the Holocaust horror stories and warnings of future persecutions will not move Jews to leave the comforts of Berkeley or Los Angeles.

We must let go of the crutches of antisemitism and alienation in order to create and sustain conviction. We must move aliya from "mirror" to "aspiration."

It is not speeches and proclamations that will move Diaspora Jews but a Jewish society that inspires the individual to want to participate in the 3,000-year-old legacy of the Jewish nation.

Aliya must first address Israelis and educate them to appreciate the crucial role they can play in determining the future of Jewish life throughout the world. Israelis are not only asked to address persecuted and frightened Jews but also and above all Jews who have lost their sense of memory and history and whose Jewishness has ceased being necessary and self-evident.

Israel as a vital Jewish society will awaken Jews to become active participants in shaping the future of the Jewish people's moral and spiritual legacy. It must convey the excitement and importance of living as modern Jews combining a sense of history and tradition with a profound belief in new human possibilities.

The final chapter of our people's spiritual drama has yet to be written.

The writer heads the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem.

Bravo, Natan!

HELEN MOTRO

NATAN Sharansky and I were born in the same year, and we both came to Israel in the same winter — I via Westchester County, New York, he straight from the Gulag. Ten years later Sharansky is a minister in the government, whereas I remain as far from the seats of fame and power as I ever was. Sharansky was incarcerated as a Prisoner of Zion for eight years before he arrived; I sometimes feel I've been serving my time since 1986.

So naturally I feel an affinity with the man. And when he defeated world chess champion Gary Kasparov in 25 moves, my heart swelled with pride.

I wasn't among the skeptics who speculated that perhaps Kasparov had tried just a shade short of his very best, or one of those who noted the fact that while he matched wits with Sharansky he was playing another 23 games simultaneously.

No, when I heard the news I cheered Sharansky's victory — yet another immigrant makes good!

Sharansky was interviewed on the radio. To what did he attribute his chess victory? "Jewish genius at work," he called it, pleased as pie. He had learned chess from his mother at five and as a teenager was town champion.

Sharansky went on talking about chess, but it was his voice I paid heed to. Why, his Hebrew didn't sound much better than mine! And his accent was just as bad, albeit with a different inflection.

Where had he acquired such a high level of skill in chess? His interviewer asked. "Well," answered Sharansky, "while I was in prison I had plenty of time. I played thousands of chess games against myself."

ALL AT once I remembered an unforgettable novella I had read long ago in high school, a powerful psychological study of an imprisoned man playing chess against himself. It was The Royal Game by German Jewish author Stefan Zweig.

Suddenly I yearned to be in touch with Sharansky, my brother-in-aliya. I wanted to celebrate his stunning victory by presenting him with Zweig's classic chess story.

But how? How could I obtain a copy of an old novella by an all-but-forgotten author — and in Russian translation, to boot?

I racked my brain trying to think of the Russians I know. Brusque factory workers with bulging arm muscles who in Israel are nursemaids to invalids; violinists playing Bach fugues on sidewalks; specialists checking eyesight at school clinics; clerks turned security guards, revolvers strapped to their hips; scientists become computer technicians, and men with goatees and diamond pinkie rings driving German limousines.

A grab bag of intellectuals, laborers and entrepreneurs with the identities between them blurred, each grasping for a foothold in the new homeland.

And it is Sharansky, physicist and mathematician reincarnated as politician who has succeeded in harnessing this disparate mass into a powerful political bloc.

He started his Yisrael Ba'aliya party in 1995, just a year before the national elections. He planted the political seeds in fertile ground, galvanizing a diffuse mass of hundreds of thousands of immigrants to rise in society by entering its system from within. Yisrael Ba'aliya shot up from nothingness, becoming a political force to be seriously reckoned with.

But soon I realized the folly of my impulse to present Sharansky with the book. Our new minister of trade and industry would no longer be interested in gloomy European explorations of the tragic human soul. No, he has moved beyond that.

Anatoli has become Natan. He is on the wave of the Nineties, a wave of optimism and achievement. His party has seven seats in the Knesset, and this is just the beginning. The sky's the limit.

Instead of Stefan Zweig, I'd do better to send Sharansky some more appropriate tokens of appreciation: a gift subscription to the Financial Times, a book by Bill Gates — or a video with Groucho Marx.

The writer is a lawyer and freelance writer living in Kfar Shmaryahu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE MIA ISSUE
Sir, — We were pleased to have been present at the rally for the Israeli MIAs outside the UN marking the 10th anniversary of the capture of Ron Arad. However, the event raises questions as to how seriously the Jewish establishment takes the MIA issue.

Adult participation at the event was minuscule. Take away the hundreds of day-school students and their faculty based in for a few hours off school, and the rest of us present could have fit into any small synagogue with room to spare. Of the students who were there, a large number were milling about aimlessly in a Sunday picnic atmosphere. This was no fault of theirs, but rather the organizers' neglect to meaningfully involve them.

But it should come as no surprise that adults didn't turn out. Compared with efforts made in the past to mobilize the community on behalf of Soviet Jewry — this one pales. There were no advertisements in any general paper. The event was scheduled for a Monday lunchtime. Solidarity events for Soviet Jewry always took place on Sundays.

As a manifestation of passion about the MIA issue, this rally lacked punch. Speaker after speaker mounted the dais. Each one played it safe — condemning those bad guys, Iran and Syria. Why did no one take up the call for the families of the MIAs who have demanded that the Israeli government halt the release of all PLO prisoners until the MIAs are freed? Why did no one put President Clinton on notice to pressure Yasser Arafat, who knows the whereabouts of the Israeli boys? After all, Arafat gave half of Zachary Laumel's dogtag to his mother. Where was the tough talk?

WE MUST BE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT
Sir, — The current cacophony of criticism from the Arab governments, the Palestinian Authority and many European states is the strongest indication that Israel is looking after its own best interests. It is very easy to make these critics pleased with us. Simply give in to all their demands. The British (who won't talk to the IRA until violence is absolutely terminated), and the French (who sell nuclear technology and arms to Iraq) and the Egyptians (who don't honor the spirit of the peace accord with Israel) will all love us again.

In an obvious and concerted ploy to pressure Israel in these crucial negotiations, the Arabs are bearing down on us with local violence and general threats of diplomatic rupture. Unfortunately, the Netanyahu government failed to anticipate this and even provided a convenient pretext for the start of this pre-arranged action. In addition, the questionably unbiased media, the hypocritical Europeans and even the left half of the Israeli population were allowed to focus on the Israeli "transgressions" of the Oslo accords. Sadly, the violence committed by the Palestinian Arabs was glossed over, excused or even ignored. This violence is the most fundamental abrogation of the Oslo accords and can never be underrated.

Under this barrage of pressure, this is not the time to undermine the government. Israel should use the Arab/European barometer to measure how well it is doing for itself in the negotiations with the PA. If they begin to like us too much, we should reconsider our concessions and perhaps even slow down.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



35-year-old Sydney man Robert Burns carries a 35 kilogram Jewfish from his boat after struggling with the monster for almost an hour on the Hawkesbury River north of Sydney, Australia. It is one of the biggest Jewfish caught on the river, almost as big as the man who caught it. He was cheered by onlookers on the shore as he landed his prize.

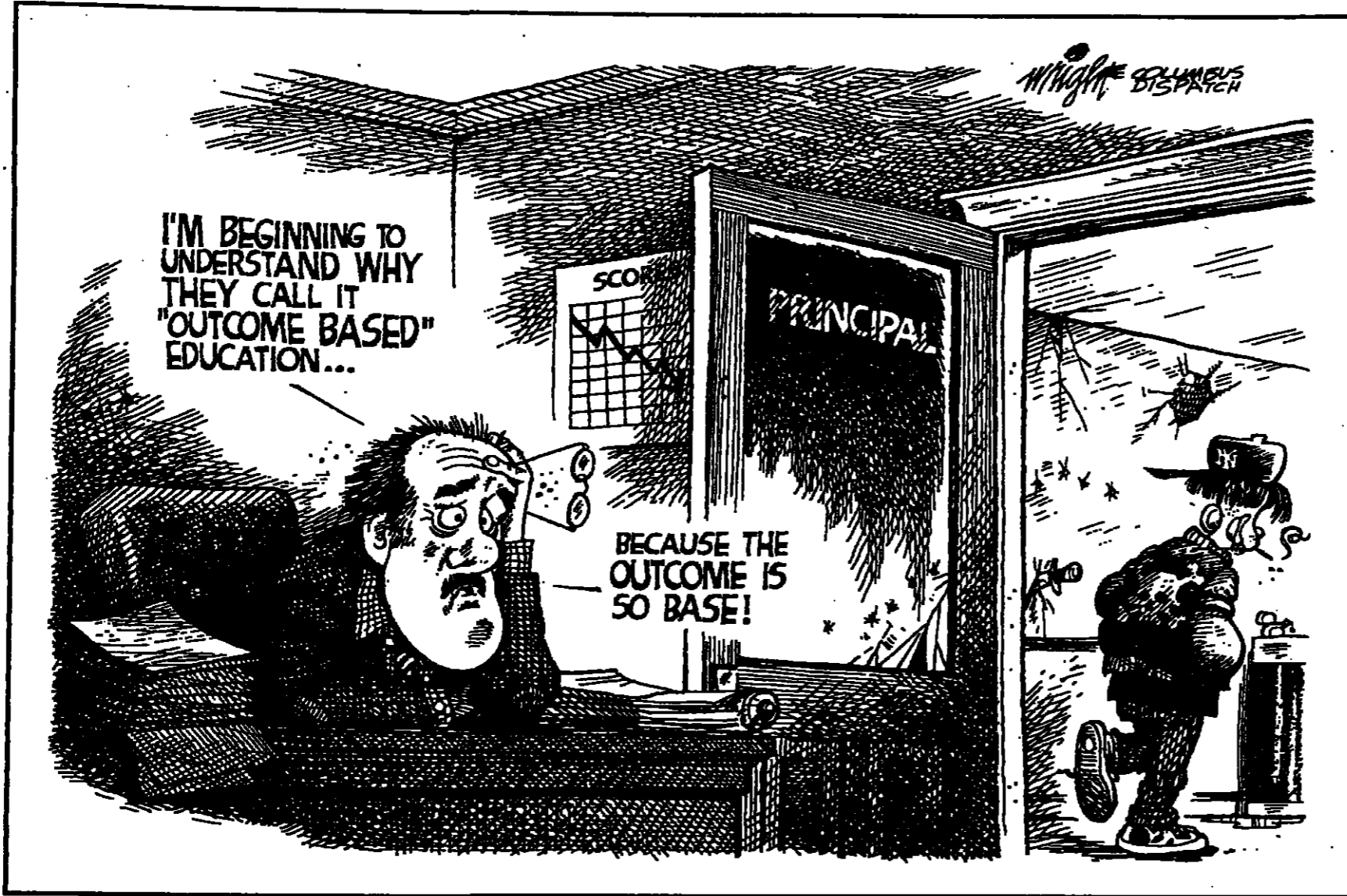
ALAN YANIGER Herzliya. DR. ZEEV ABRAHAM Eilat.

האדם האליל

he Jerusalem Post
bravo,
tatan!
ELEN MOTRO

AMERICAN OUTLOOK

Sunday, October 20, 1996



Hot fusion

Court case could change face of U.S. politics

BY JASON GRAY ZENGERLE

For third parties in the United States, this should be the season of discontent. Though voters don't seem especially enamored of the major-party candidates for U.S. president, they aren't exactly rushing into the arms of the Green Party's Ralph Nader or the Libertarian Party's Harry Browne, either. Even Ross Perot, whose 19 percent showing in 1992 made him the most credible third-party candidate since Teddy Roosevelt, seems to have lost much of his appeal. Yet this fall may turn out to be the most important moment for third parties in recent memory. In November, while its better-known third-party brethren are getting trounced at the polls, the "progressive" New Party will be preparing for a date before the U.S. Supreme Court. If it wins its case, third parties will be playing by new and more favorable rules than they ever have before.

At issue in the case are state statutes that prevent a candidate from running on more than one party ticket. On the books in 40 states and the District of Columbia only nine months ago, but now found in seven fewer jurisdictions thanks to New Party court challenges, such bans prohibit the appearance of a candidate on more than one party line on the ballot. That prohibition might sound inoffensive enough, but for third parties it's a huge impediment, one that relegates them to the fringes and deprives them of the leverage they could gain by offering or withholding a second ballot line to a major-party candidate. Fusion bans, as they're known, afflict third parties with the "wasted-vote syndrome" — even if you love their platform, you're reluctant to throw your vote away on candidates with no serious chance of winning. But, when fusion is permitted, minor parties can form electoral coalitions with other parties running more viable candidates, and an otherwise futile third-party vote can become a meaningful one. By fostering more competition, participation and representation in American politics, fusion is a simple way to invigorate the electoral system.

In most of the world's democracies — which enjoy proportional representation systems — third, fourth and even fifth parties are political forces, because parties are awarded a percentage of seats in their legislatures roughly proportionate to their share of the popular vote. But in America's winner-take-all system, third, or minority, parties are by definition largely precluded from any meaningful role in the electoral and political processes. Fusion, however, is a peculiar American version of proportional representation, in that it works within a winner-take-all system

to encourage the same type of coalition building fostered by proportional representation.

Nineteenth-century American politics were characterized by vital third parties and, not coincidentally, by the nationwide use of fusion. Fusion allowed third parties like the Grangers, the Greenbackers, the Independents and the Populists to cross-nominate major-party candidates and to wield real political clout. In 1892, the fusion between the Democratic Party and the Populist "People's Party" carried Grover Cleveland to the White House. But, ironically, such success helped to doom the practice: Embittered Progressives and Republicans in many state legislatures, fearful of increased minority representation, started passing anti-fusion statutes, and the third-party force began to fade.

In states where fusion is still legal, however, third parties have maintained their vigor. In New York, for example, former New York City Mayors Fiorello LaGuardia and John Lindsay ran successfully on fusion tickets, and current Mayor Rudy Giuliani owes his office to the practice. In his 1993 campaign for mayor, Giuliani ran as both the Republican and the Liberal Party nominee, and it was the 62,469 votes he received on the Liberal Party line that gave him his 53,340-vote edge over Democrat David Dinkins.

Of all the major and minor American parties, though, it is the 4-year-old New Party — a melange of labor activists, environmentalists, community organizers and academics all seeking a liberal alternative to the Democratic Party — that best recognizes fusion's potential. With 7,500 dues-paying members (compared with 100,000 Democratic Party members and 700,000 Republicans) and chapters in 11 states, the New Party has not yet reached its goal of being a national party. But if it is successful in its legal strategy to repeal fusion bans, it will have made perhaps the most significant impact on the American political system of any third party in the 20th century.

Sarah Siskind and New Party Chair Joel Rogers, a husband-and-wife duo of Madison, Wis., lawyers, began their legal crusade against anti-fusion statutes in 1990, when they filed a federal suit challenging Wisconsin's ban on multiple-party nominations. In 1991 the suit was tossed out by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit, but Siskind and Rogers persevered, filing a suit in 1994 on behalf of the New Party that challenged Minnesota's anti-fusion law. This past January, the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals found in favor of the New Party, concluding that anti-fusion statutes infringed upon First Amendment rights to political association. "A party has a First Amendment right to select and place on the ballot the person it wants to be its standard-bear-

er," Siskind explains. "It's as simple as that."

Faced with a split between the 7th and 8th Circuits, the Supreme Court accepted Minnesota's petition and agreed to hear arguments on fusion this fall. Minnesota will contend that anti-fusion laws are justified by the state's compelling interest in minimizing voter confusion and preventing the splintering of major political parties. The New Party's case, based as before on First Amendment claims, will be argued by Harvard law professor Laurence Tribe, whose success in swaying the swing vote in a slew of major cases before the Court has earned him the nickname "the 10th justice." By the spring of 1997, fusion bans may be a thing of the past.

And that could lead to a profound change in the nature of American elections. Fusion could produce a protest vote that actually counts. It could allow voters to express support for particular aspects of a candidate's program, while repudiating others: A vote for Clinton on a hypothetical New Party line, for example, could represent a thumbs-down on welfare reform legislation and an endorsement of his pledge to fix it.

Most important, though, the repeal of fusion bans could make America's winner-take-all system dramatically more hospitable to third parties. The Reform Party (if it is indeed an actual party, as it claims, and not a cult of personality) would likely be the short-term beneficiary, because it is now the highest-profile and best-financed of the third parties. In the long term, however, it is the New Party that hopes to gain the most from a repeal of fusion bans. Its electoral strategy keeps it relentlessly focused on the unglamorous task of building the party from the bottom up, rather than squandering valuable resources on quadrennial presidential campaigns. With that strategy in mind, the New Party has wisely refused to enter races it cannot win. Instead, since the New Party's founding in 1992, it has run its own "credible" candidates in 122 municipal elections and won 83 of them, picking up about 1 million votes along the way. Its involvement in statewide and national contests is limited to only a few races where it has pursued fusion with a major-party candidate.

Even if they pave the political road for others, the New Party figures, it will have made its mark. "If nothing else," says party chair Rogers, "this could be our contribution to American democracy."

Jason Gray Zengerle is an assistant editor at *The American Prospect*. This article first appeared in *The New Republic*.

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When tragedies can't be explained

BY SAUNDRA SMOKES

During my Monday-morning prayer time, when I was late and rushed, the blurry faces of two young strangers flashed across my mind's screen.

They belonged to Jennifer Bolduc and Sarah Hajney, 16-year-old best friends, cheerleaders at a high school in Dryden, N.Y., about 30 minutes away from my hometown. They were last seen at breakfast time on Friday morning and had not made it to school by 9 a.m.

I was about to pray that they were safe, that they would come home, but a feeling of numbness set in, and the words would not come.

I don't know if the words that did come were spoken out loud or just lingered in the pit of my stomach, but I heard, "It's too late."

A short time later, I heard the television blaring in another room. State police had declared that Jennifer and Sarah were presumed dead, although their bodies had not been recovered.

Days later, our upstairs New York community would learn that a 31-year-old man named John B. Andrews, the next-door neighbor of Sarah, was charged with abducting the girls that Friday morning and murdering them in an awful way.

What tragedy so often does to a community is to stop — no, jolt — its members in their tracks. Differences and disputes, complaints about the job, the weather and other people seem petty and trivial.

The very human reaction is try to find answers that will assure that the tragedy's cause can be explained away. That what happened to that family, that neighborhood, that city, cannot touch us.

The very human reaction is try to find answers that will assure that the tragedy's cause can be explained away. That what happened to that family, that neighborhood, that city, cannot touch us.

But the deaths of the two best friends is what I call an "unfigurable" tragedy.

They did not live in a place where crime was part of the fabric of the neighborhood. They lived in a rural area with a population of about 15,000.

They did not disappear in the dark of the night, but in the light of morning.

They were not where they were not supposed to be. They were at home, house-sitting with a male school friend, while Sarah's parents were away on vacation.

They were said to be responsible young women, which is why when they did not come to school that Friday morning people knew something was wrong.

And it is unlikely that the townspeople would have picked out John B. Andrews, who lived in the house Sarah and her family once lived in, as a person who could be a suspect in a brutal murder.

Unfigurable. Unexplainable.

In fact, the teen-agers' community has lived with the unexplainable for the last several years. A family of five murdered. The high school football coach killed while trying to protect his daughter from a stalker. Two teen-age brothers killed, a year and a half apart, in car accidents. And, just a few weeks ago, an employee charged with killing his boss.

But it is the unpreventable part that especially shakes not only the girls' neighbors, but also everyone — especially the caretakers of children.

Can't even teen-agers be left alone?

Should we suspect every stranger? Should we suspect our neighbors? Co-workers? Friends?

Should we let caution turn to paranoia? Should we always think in terms of potential danger, harm and tragedy?

During the evening after my morning prayers, I went to a university lecture. I saw one of my friends. She said her 16-year-old daughter, Kyla, was coming along, but she had gone to find a friend at the dorm, who was going to attend the lecture with her.

I thought of the news about the best friends

I thought of another teen-ager in our town, April Gregory, an 18-year-old who was dropped off at her dorm at the university and has not been seen since May 25.

My heart was beating. I was scared for Kyla, but I didn't want to scare her mother.

I said a silent prayer, and this time the words came.

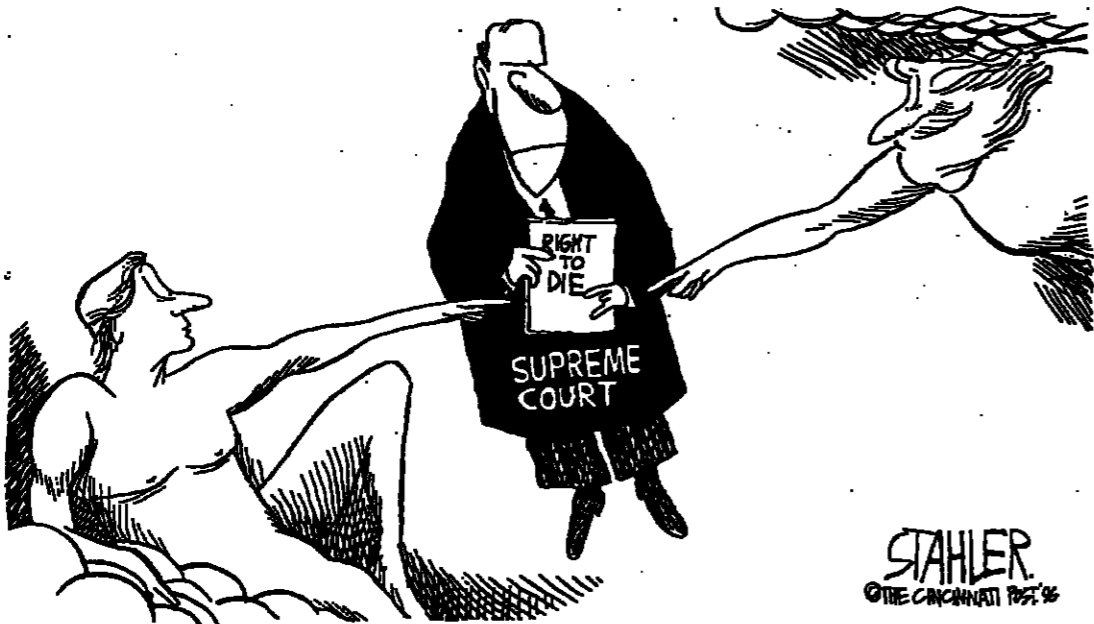
When Kyla showed up, I gave a little pat-on-the-back hug. She had no idea that I had been fretting over her.

I was thankful.

Tragedy has a way of making us confused, fearful, united in pain and sadness, yet prayerful — and thankful.

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EDITORIAL CARTOONS



Minimum-wage bill just a boon for big business

By JOHN JUDIS

"This is a cause for celebration for all Americans of all parties, all walks of life, all faiths. By coming together across lines that have too often divided us and finding common ground, we have made this a real season of achievement for the people of America," Bill Clinton said, as he signed the minimum-wage bill Aug. 20. The close of the 104th Congress occasioned many such moments of self-congratulation, as Congress passed a flurry of legislation with bipartisan support. Even liberals were impressed. But beneath the carapace of constructive reform lies a legislative record filled with our-rages. And the minimum-wage bill, supposedly the great progressive achievement of this year, is no exception. It may actually be the best example of all.

The bill that raised the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 an hour is called the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996. It contains several measures that Republicans sought for their allies in the National Federation of Independent Business and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Most of these — like an increase in the amount the self-employed can deduct for health insurance — were either innocuous or commendable. But the bill also includes at least 10 other significant provisions aimed at neither small business owners nor their employees. And they more than negate whatever good the bill may do. Here are the lowlights:

enrich themselves and their investment advisers but penalizes employees trying to save their own ailing companies.

MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS

During the Cold War, Congress, eager to prop up our allies' economies in Europe and Asia, provided incentives for American firms to invest overseas. American multinationals didn't have to pay U.S. taxes on their foreign income unless or until they repatriated it, and they could deduct whatever payments they had already made to foreign governments. By the Cold War's end, these incentives had outlived their usefulness. In the 1992 campaign, candidate Clinton promised to eliminate them, but in 1993 his administration predictably backed down, merely requiring overseas firms to reinvest their unrepatriated profits in foreign plants and equipment rather than banking them. This year's Congress, in a minimum-wage bill supposedly aimed at helping low-income workers, rescinded even that caveat. So the Treasury still won't be able to tax the profits, and now multinational corporations won't even have to do anything useful with them.

PENSIONS

Most workers and companies assume the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) protects their pensions from insurance company abuse and incompetence. According to ERISA, when a company gives insurance companies its pension funds to manage and invest, the companies must do so "solely in the interest of workers and retirees." If the insurance companies take enormous fees for themselves or invest the funds in risky ventures, they can be sued. But for two decades insurance companies have tried to convince the courts that they shouldn't be subject to

ERISA. In 1993 the Supreme Court ruled clearly in John Hancock v. Harris Trust that they were. The 104th Congress came to the rescue. In the minimum-wage bill, Senate Republican and Democratic leaders inserted a last-minute rider effectively reversing the Supreme Court decision and making insurance companies subject to a lesser standard of conduct. The measure, dubbed the ERISA Clarification Act, was even applied retroactively to what companies did prior to this year.

There's more. The minimum-wage bill eliminated a requirement that companies extend to lower-wage employees the same pension benefits they grant higher-paid workers; and it ended a surtax on one-year pension withdrawals over \$150,000, a boon to the ultra-rich. The bill removed a surtax on luxury car purchases and on diesel fuel for yachts. And it allowed newspaper publishers to treat their distributors and carriers as independent carriers rather than employees, so they won't have to pay their Social Security and unemployment compensation.

As often happens, Congress used a bill touted as poor relief as cover for its pandering to some of the most powerful lobbies in Washington — investment banks, multinationals like Microsoft and Johnson & Johnson, life insurance firms and newspaper publishers. Republicans took the lead. Oklahoma Senator Don Nickles pressed for the change in LBO tax laws. House Ways and Means Chairman Bill Archer, as always, championed tax breaks for the wealthy. But all these measures enjoyed bipartisan support. Life insurance companies got both Kansas Senator Nancy Kassebaum and Connecticut Senator Chris Dodd to press their case. Secretary of Labor Robert Reich wrote a letter endorsing the changes in ERISA. And, of the 16 members of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, only two, Paul Simon and Paul Wellstone, dissented.

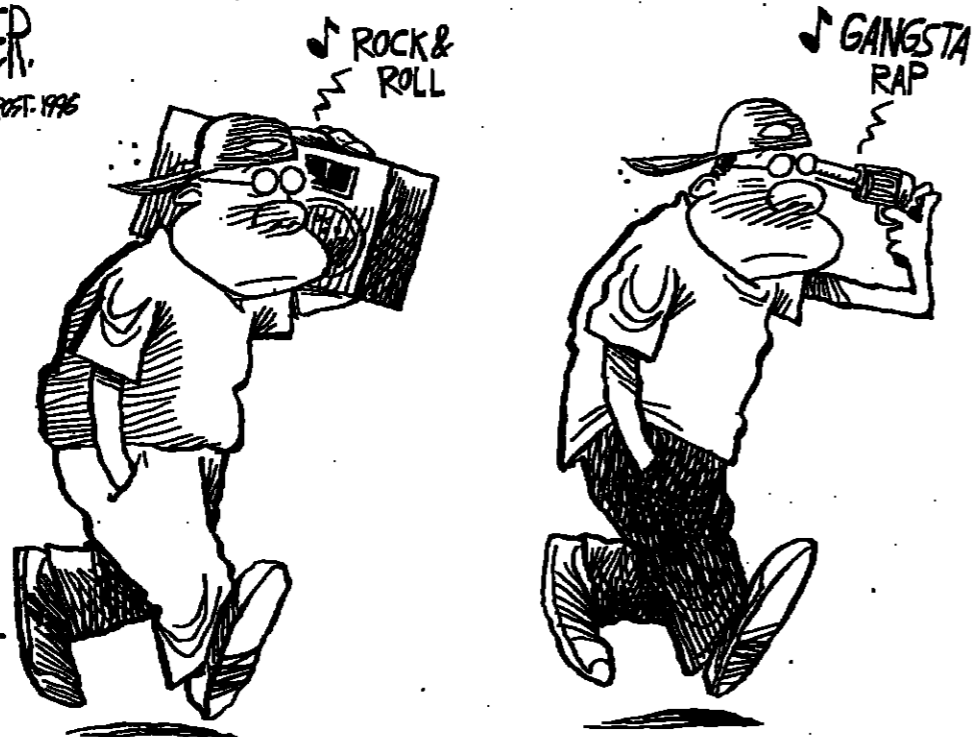
What about the 104th Congress' other great achievements? Senators Kassebaum and Kennedy claimed their health care reform bill required insurers to cover people with pre-existing conditions, and both President Clinton and Bob Dole have crowed about it on the stump. But the bill doesn't limit what the insurers charge and allows them to shunt these undesirables off to Medicaid-like high-risk pools. Welfare reform expands the supply of low-wage job applicants without expanding the supply of jobs, holding down the wages that the minimum-wage bill was supposed to raise. A "cause for celebration for all Americans"? I don't think so.

John Judis is a senior editor of *The New Republic*, in which this article first appeared.

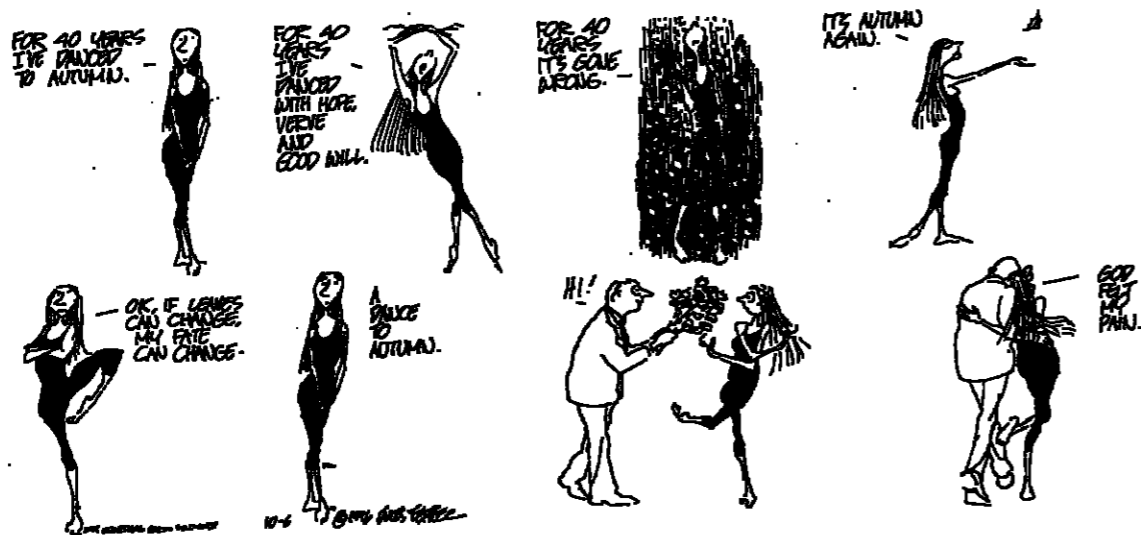
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STAHLER
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FEIFFER



SUNDAY COMICS

I just
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Doonesbury

G. B. TRUDEAU

TEEN PUT US IN THE FUTURE AGAIN?

DO YOU THINK IT'S A BIT EARLY TO BE THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE?

NO, YOU DON'T. I'M SAYING YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE NOW.

DO YOU THINK IT'S A BIT EARLY TO BE THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE?

NO, YOU DON'T. I'M SAYING YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE NOW.

DO YOU THINK IT'S A BIT EARLY TO BE THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE?

NO, YOU DON'T. I'M SAYING YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE NOW.

PEANUTS

HERE HE COMES ALL SMILES...

GUESS WHERE I'VE BEEN. I'VE BEEN TO HOLLYWOOD.

AND GUESS WHO I RAN INTO: MICKEY MOUSE!

HE WAS NICE TO ME... WE SAT AND TALKED FOR A LONG TIME. I GUESS HE'S MADE A LOT OF MONEY...

I TOLD HIM ABOUT HOW I LIVE OUT HERE ON THE DESERT, AND HOW HOT THE SAND CAN GET ON YOUR FEET.

AND THEN, YOU KNOW WHAT HE DID?

HE GAVE ME HIS SHOES!

STP

By Jeff Meyers

I HAVE A BREF STATEMENT...

FOLLOWED BY A SPRINT FOR THE DOOR.

AS YOU KNOW, A PROMINENT POLITICAL CONSULTANT HAS ADMITTED TO CAUVORING WITH A WELL-KNOWN BANDO.

THIS KIND OF BEHAVIOR CANNOT BE TOLERATED.

I CANNOT AFFORD TO HAVE TRUSTED FRIENDS HANGING OUT WITH UNSAVORY CHARACTERS...

ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A TOUGH RE-ELECTION FIGHT.

THEREFORE, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

MY GIRLFRIEND HAS RESIGNED FROM THE CAMPAIGN.

Calvin and Hobbes

WILSON

ZIP ZOP ZIP ZOP ZIP ZOP ZIP ZOP ZIP ZOP ZIP ZOP

SNOW PANTS.

WELL? LET'S HAVE SOME SNOW!!

IT'S SNOWING! I CAN MAKE IT SNOW! I'M PSYCHOKINETIC! HEY! HEY!

OH, HE'S GOING TO HATE ME FOR THIS.

STOP WAIT CAUTION WIPE YOUR FEET

DEAD END EAT AT JOES EXIT

HI THERE I AM A TALKING SIGN

CLICK

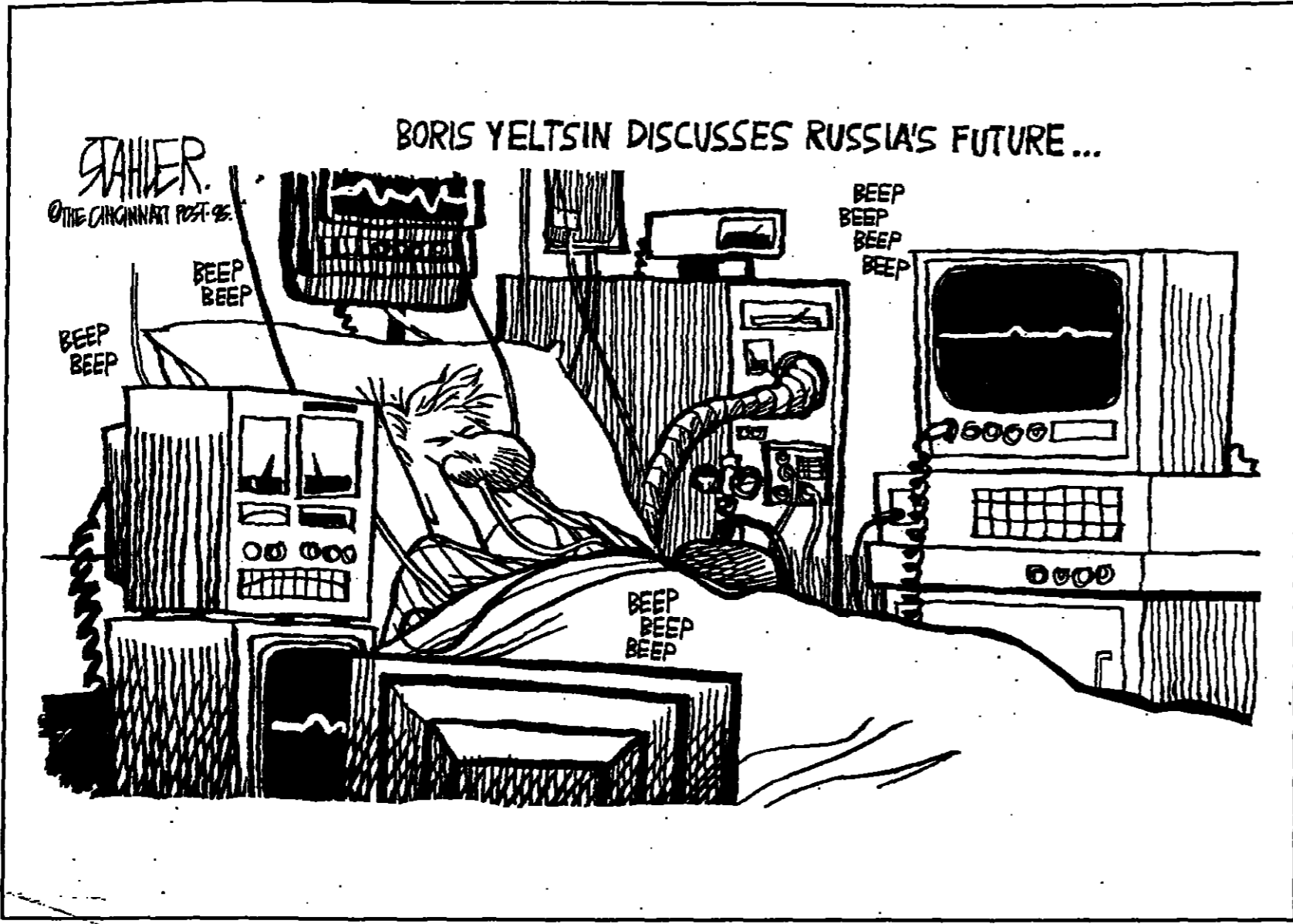
GET OFF THE GRASS.

HI THERE I AM A TALKING SIGN

TODAY'S SUNDAY PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- Freight
 - Fuzz
 - Of the cheeks
 - Deep pink
 - Greek marketplace
 - Melville novel
 - Saudi Arabian city
 - Spanish province
 - Student's evaluation
 - Public speaker
 - Joe Lind's role
 - Sediment
 - Crone
 - Morse-code signal
 - As a rule
 - Ohio or Oregon
 - On the — hand
 - Burrows or Lincoln
 - Jones Average
 - Impress
 - Cider ingredient
 - Comedienne
 - Imogene —
 - Boxer's punch
 - Made into law
 - Statue's part
 - Reveal
 - Trick
 - Put raw film into the camera
 - Malaga Mrs.
 - Eastern away
 - Greek mountain
 - Sheath Hammer
 - Short-hand expert
 - Shelby's movie
 - With — hand: meekly
 - Amin
 - Ghazaly
 - Pet doc
 - Careless
 - Parno, Italy
 - Theater's expert
 - Horatio —
 - Point the way
 - Worldwide
- DOWN**
- out: pay
 - Ebo
 - Typewriter part
 - Tranquility
 - Graf's rival
 - Mist
 - Scorched
 - Small barrel
 - Wall hanging
 - Cold, in Naught
 - Candle
 - Kareiva
 - Arnold's wife
 - Dam it!
 - In the sack
 - Sudden wind
 - KC course
 - Edt
 - Fiddler or pianist
 - Author Deighton
 - Storage name
 - Shaded
 - Indian city
 - Happy
 - Simple task
 - Author Jong
 - Have lolly ambrosia
 - West African country
 - Ghazaly
 - Old German coin
 - Flow pioneer
 - Acacia Barbara —
 - Said further
 - Pool Sandburg
 - Author James —
 - Lasso
 - 4-1-4
 - Rower's tool
 - Found
 - Reflection
 - Neither here — there
 - Mary — Lincoln
 - Mail co —
 - Proverb
 - Metric measure
 - Before long
 - Hard to find
 - Type of melon
 - Small egg
 - Small stream
 - Associate
 - Intox: acid
 - Mark with spots
 - Mailed
 - "Excuse me!"
 - Spad
 - commander
 - Frightening
 - Perjure
 - Tootle-co
 - Spanish river
 - Like Marilyn Monroe
 - Tip: function
 - Foreign market
 - Waltz or "ango instrument
 - Wide open
 - Up and about
 - Author Zola
 - Fast
 - Mrs. Dithers
 - Slur up
 - Be ahead
 - Otherwise
 - Peak
 - , as colors
 - Filly fabric
 - Watched
 - Favorite
 - Prior to: post
 - Possessed
 - Health resort

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Repent, Bob Dole, for the end is nigh

By JONATHAN CHAIT

Bob Dole unveiled his economic plan 13 weeks before the U.S. Presidential election. Republicans hoped, and Democrats feared, that the huge tax cuts would conjure up the wizardry of Ronald Reagan's 1980 presidential campaign, which came to life with the promise of tax cuts. Ten of those weeks have now passed, and the frog is still a frog. Over 60 percent of Americans do not believe Dole will cut their taxes; those who do are outnumbered by skeptics who think Dole will raise their taxes. Dole has now been reduced to re-running George Bush's 1988 campaign, chanting the feeble insult "liberal" over and over at a candidate who has spent his career fortifying himself against it.

To save Dole and ourselves from the doldrums, we humbly suggest a new approach: renounce the tax cut. We wouldn't suggest it if we didn't believe Dole felt the same way we do, at the bottom of his heart. All the evidence suggests the economic plan is a desperate, cynical attempt to buy votes rather than a genuine conversion to supply-side economics. Dole, after all, has exerted precious political capital straightening up the mess left by Ronald Reagan's tax cuts. He has until recently shown nothing but contempt for supply-side theory, and no evidence has since arisen to salvage its reputation.

Dole's timing makes us especially suspicious. He could have proposed a tax cut during the Republican primary, when he had no answer to Steve Forbes's flat tax and his nomination seemed in danger. He demurred. Only in August, after party strategists spent weeks hounding him with a false nostrum — that waving the talisman of tax cuts was his only chance to narrow President Clinton's massive lead — did Dole relent. But the contrast between believers and cynics remains all too apparent. When confronted with Clinton's objection that the plan will "blow a hole in the deficit," Jack Kemp falls under the trance of voodoo passion: "We're going to cut the capital-gain tax unapologetically and unashamedly by 50 percent," he crowed on "Meet the Press," "and that alone will bring far more revenue into the government." Dole merely smirks, "What it's really going to do is blow a hole in his lead."

But it hasn't. Every remotely objective

analysis has exposed Dole's plan as a series of vague, hopelessly optimistic and contradictory assumptions piled on top of each other like a house of cards. You don't have to be a sniveling liberal to doubt that Dole could cut more money from the Commerce Department's budget than it actually spends or to question the wisdom of paying for permanent tax increases with one-time sales of government assets. Even his economic apologists can only come up with shallow soundbites in its defense. And this time, nobody's buying the chicanery.

To save Dole and ourselves from the doldrums, we humbly suggest a new approach: renounce the tax cut. We wouldn't suggest it if we didn't believe Dole felt the same way we do, at the bottom of his heart. All the evidence suggests the economic plan is a desperate, cynical attempt to buy votes rather than a genuine conversion to supply-side economics.

So why bother? Dole has little to lose. Even more than in August, Dole needs a headline grabbing shakeup. If he stands up and confesses that his tax cut was a mistake, a capitulation to short-term political pressure at a weak moment, he would earn a second look from voters, who appreciate politicians willing to forthrightly admit mistakes. What could Clinton attack him for? Flip-flopping?

The risks are this: His supply-side supporters, such as Kemp, would be horrified. But they have caused him nothing but grief. In 1985 Dole engineered a painful deficit-reduction bill in the Senate, with Pete Wilson, still attached to a hospital I.V., casting the dramatic final vote. Kemp promptly

subverted him in the House. During the summer they battered him relentlessly until he took up their banner. And as his campaign stagnates they are already marking their distance, jockeying to lay the blame for Dole's anticipated failure on his personality rather than the ideas he has espoused. The supply-siders haven't hesitated to place their cause above his. He owes them nothing.

In any case, Dole's putative supply-side conversion not only aids his enemies, but also isolates his friends. What hope remains for conservative deficit hawks if their standard-bearer can be turned? When Dole began his political career, fiscal conservatism was the exclusive province of the GOP. In 1962 he voted against President John F. Kennedy's proposed tax cuts. Even as the Democrats slowly adopt his old position, Dole is presiding over his party's retreat from budgetary prudence.

When Dole announced his tax plan, it was an affront. Now it's a tragedy: He sold his soul to win the presidency, and is going to end up with neither. He appears to have only a few weeks remaining to salvage history's verdict. Repent, Senator, for the end is nigh.

Jonathan Chait is a staff writer for The New Republic, in which this article first appeared.

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Baker pushed for Dole's secretary of defense

By ROBERT NOVAK

Conservatives working inside U.S. presidential candidate Bob Dole's campaign report that a pre-election announcement of James A. Baker III as designated secretary of defense is being pushed by Baker's longtime lieutenant, Margaret Tutwiler. Dole campaign manager Scott Reed still is trying to put together a list of senior Cabinet choices that presumably would be headed by Gen. Colin Powell as secretary of state. Tutwiler, who a month ago joined the Dole campaign, floated a Cabinet list that included both Powell and Baker.

Baker, who served as secretary of the Treasury under President Ronald Reagan and secretary of state under President George Bush, is anathema to the Republican right wing.

Baker, who served as secretary of the Treasury under President Ronald Reagan and secretary of state under President George Bush, is anathema to the Republican right wing. Conservatives have complained about the presence in the Dole campaign of Tutwiler and James Cicconi, another former Baker lieutenant.

BORIS IN TROUBLE

One of New York City's leading cardiologists with excellent contacts in Moscow is spreading the word that Boris Yeltsin, beset with multiple ailments, probably will not arise from a Russian operating table when he goes under the knife for heart surgery.

The consensus among heart specialists around the world is that Yeltsin would have a good chance for recovery if he came to the United States, where many people in similar condition have survived such operations. But Yeltsin's prospects are poor if he stays in Russia, according to the cardiologists.

Yeltsin has refused to come to the United States for treatment because Russia still pretends to superpower status and cannot admit having inferior treatment facilities.

COMPETITION FOR GORE

Political operatives close to U.S. President Bill Clinton privately predict that Vice President Al Gore faces a tough battle for the 2000 Democratic presidential nomination, with infighting beginning immediately after the 1996 election.

These Clinton advisers see House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt as the challenger, whether or not Democrats regain control of the House and Gephardt becomes speaker. The Gore-Gephardt struggle would not wait for the 2000 primary elections but would begin in 1997 in Congress.

The view from the White House is that a re-elected Clinton in his second term would immediately face a Democratic effort to move the party back to conventional liberalism. These Clinton advisers foresee an ideological struggle with Gore in the center and Gephardt on the left.

LOTT: NEVER AGAIN

Sen. Trent Lott, facing intense criticism from fellow Republican conservatives for his performance as Senate majority leader since taking over for Bob Dole three months ago, is passing the word to expect a changed Lott in 1997.

Lott's capitulation to a variety of demands by Clinton and Democrats in Congress stunned the GOP right wing, which considered him a truer conservative than Dole. He has received undesired praise from moderate and liberal journalists, calling Lott more flexible and conciliatory than Dole.

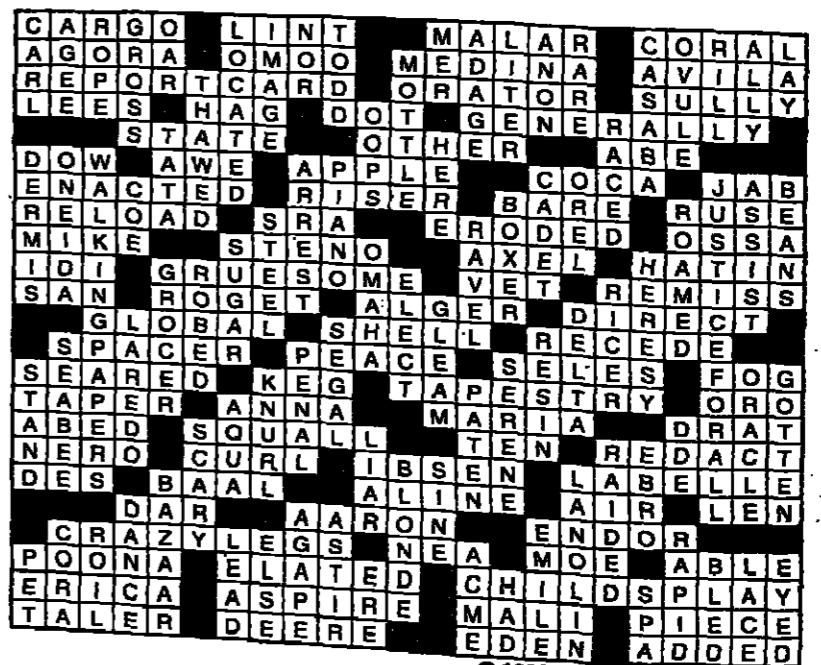
Accordingly, the new majority leader has told close Senate Republican allies to await a totally different Lott next year. He explained that his primary interest for 1996 has been to avoid a politically ruinous shutdown of the government and to get Congress out of town so Republican incumbents could campaign for re-election.

Robert Novak is a syndicated columnist of the Chicago Sun-Times.

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AMERICAN OUTLOOK

PRODUCED BY:
CHICAGO
SUN-TIMES
FEATURES
SYNDICATE



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Braves crush Cards, clinch NLCS

NFL individual leaders

Table with columns for Quarterbacks, Running Backs, Wide Receivers, Tight Ends, and Kickers. Lists names and statistics for various players across different teams.

ATLANTA (Reuters) - The Atlanta Braves crushed the St. Louis Cardinals 15-0 Thursday, coming back from the brink of elimination to win three straight games to stampede into the World Series against the New York Yankees.



NATIONAL HEROES - The Braves celebrate after winning the NL crown.

The defending World Champion Braves racked up six runs in the first inning and went on to a 17-hit romp, including a three-run triple by pitcher Tom Glavine, who allowed a paltry three singles, struck out four and issued no walks.

Braves' catcher Javy Lopez was the Most Valuable Player of the series, batting a seven-game Championship Series record .542 with two homers and six RBI. He homered and drove in three runs Thursday.

Winning the MVP "is a privilege, and I feel real proud," Lopez said. "We've got another series to go and hopefully we can win."

There wasn't the feeling that one guy did the whole job. I think that with the whole team cooperating, that's why we're here.

The Braves outscored the Cardinals 32-1 in the final three games to become the first team to win a National League Championship Series after trailing three games to one.

Table with columns for Touchdowns, Rushing, Passing, and Field Goals. Lists statistics for various players.

Osborne had a chance to escape but allowed singles to rookies Jermaine Dye and Andrew Jones that plated another run. Then he hit Jeff Blauser with a pitch to set the stage for Glavine's triple pass a diving Ron Gant in left field.

Osborne's first two pitches were hit by Marquis Grissom for a single and Mark Lemke for a double. The runners held as Chipper Jones grounded out.

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Table with columns for Atlanta and St. Louis. Lists statistics for various players in the NLCS.

Team statistics

Large table with columns for AFC and NFC offenses and defenses. Lists statistics for various teams including Denver, Oakland, Jacksonville, Pittsburgh, New England, Baltimore, NY Jets, Houston, Miami, Seattle, San Diego, Buffalo, Kansas City, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Dallas, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Miami, Jacksonville, Oakland, Kansas City, Houston, Baltimore, Indianapolis, Seattle, San Francisco, Cincinnati, New England, NY Jets, San Diego, Dallas, Green Bay, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Arizona, Minnesota, Carolina, Chicago, New Orleans, Dallas, Tampa Bay, NY Giants, St. Louis, Denver, Dallas, Green Bay, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Arizona, Minnesota, Carolina, Chicago, New Orleans, Dallas, Tampa Bay, NY Giants, St. Louis.

Payton closing in on rushing TD record as Chiefs down Seahawks

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) - Take warning, Walter Payton. Marcus Allen is on, so close.

'Round 2' of Steelers-Oilers highlights AFC schedule

NEW YORK (AP) - When Pittsburgh and Houston met at Three Rivers Stadium last month, the relevant numbers were 30-16 and \$145,500.

Welcome to NY, Braves

NEW YORK (AP) - Coming off the first full baseball season in three years and a stirring seven-game victory over St. Louis in the NL championship series, the last thing the Atlanta Braves needed was a traffic jam.

Thomas on verge of breaking O.J.'s rushing mark

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) - Thurman Thomas has been trying to catch O.J. Simpson for nine years, only to realize the chase was much more exciting than the trophy.

Bailey indoor record ratified

MONACO (Reuter) - Canadian Olympic champion Donovan Bailey's eight-month-old world indoor 50 meters record has finally been ratified after doubts about the validity of the start.

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Dow closes on new record high Wall Street buoys London shares

WALL STREET REPORT

WORLD MARKETS ROUNDUP

Key Representative Rates
U.S. Dollar NIS 3.2850 + 1.05%
Sterling NIS 2.1822 + 0.87%
German mark NIS 2.1198 + 0.74%

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET
New York market indexes
Last Change
DJ Industrials 9094.20 +35.09
DJ Transport 2164.42 +14.85

Israeli stocks in US
Last Change
AMF (AMEX) 36.75 +0.5
Ampel 5 4.0288 +0.02

Dollar up against mark
CURRENCY REPORT
NEW YORK (AP) - The dollar rose Thursday against the German mark, which was hurt by political instability and worries of a coup in nearby Russia, a big trade partner for Germany.

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks rallied into the close Friday, shuffling off some profit-taking to boost several market measures further into record territory as interest rates fell again in bond trading.
On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 35.03 points to close at 9,094.23, a new high for the fourth time this week.

LONDON (Reuters) - Shares closed at a record high for the third time in five sessions, buoyed by firm U.S. Treasury bonds and lifted towards the close as the Dow recovered from early weakness.
The FTSE 100 ended 11.0 points higher at 4,053.1, surpassing its previous record close of 4,050.8 set on October 15, for a rise of 25.0 points in the week.

Investors go for blue chips
WALL STREET WEEK
NEW YORK - Blue-chip stocks have become the dream team on Wall Street as investors, burnt by the recent rout of small stocks, run to the safety of companies with proven records.

confidence.
The DAX index closed bourse trade 18.56 points higher at 2,734.20, up 48.17 from last Friday. In post-bourse trading the DAX stood at 2,727.56.
TOKYO - Stocks closed higher, propped up by a new record high on Wall Street overnight as well as hopes that Japan's general election on Sunday will produce a stable government capable of executing policies to help the economy.

Dollar up against mark
CURRENCY REPORT
NEW YORK (AP) - The dollar rose Thursday against the German mark, which was hurt by political instability and worries of a coup in nearby Russia, a big trade partner for Germany.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)
Currency (deposit for) 3 MONTHS 6 MONTHS 12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000) 4.750 5.000 5.375

Want to keep in close touch with your securities till 11 PM?
ISRAELI DISCOUNT BANK
DIAL 03-5199111 FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM.

ing big gains against the yen on Wednesday.
In late New York trading, the dollar rose to 1.5429 marks from 1.5391 marks late Wednesday. It declined to 112.22 yen from 112.27 yen.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES
NEW YORK
Chrysler 50.125 -0.125
Citigroup 32.875 -0.125
Coca Cola 41.125 -0.125
Citicorp 32.875 -0.125

MUTUAL FUNDS
Flexible
Fund's name unit redemption price monthly yield (%)
Abraxas 185.85 182.53 +0.82
Advent 149.47 147.57 +0.30

Shares
Adi 78.38 74.96 -0.82
Advent 174.44 174.13 -0.01
Advent 121.89 +0.14

State Bonds
Alroy's state 380.18 378.08 +1.08
Alroy's 301.38 300.78 +0.60
Alroy's Government Bonds 321.58 320.87 +0.71

Company Bonds
Alroy's bonds 362.87 360.41 +0.85
Alroy's 156.10 155.88 +0.22
Alroy's 100.20 100.00 +0.20

LIBOR RATES
Last Change
Dollar 3 months 5.875 0
Dollar 6 months 5.875 0
Dollar 9 months 5.875 0

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds
34 Ben Yehuda St. Jerusalem.
Tel. 02-244963, 03-5758266
Fax. 02-244876

US COMMODITIES
Last Change
Coffee (Dec) 188.8 -0.15
Coffee (Mar) 188.1 -0.13
Coffee (May) 187.4 -0.11

NEW YORK
Chrysler 50.125 -0.125
Citigroup 32.875 -0.125
Coca Cola 41.125 -0.125
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האזנה מן האולם

CLASS NO

Ministry chiefs to handle job situation in development towns

AT the initiative of Foreign Minister David Levy, the cabinet on Friday discussed the handling of the unemployment situation in development towns, following the closing of the Kitan factory in Levy's hometown, Beit She'an.

The ministers decided that the Directors-General Committee for Special Cases would act as a special bureau to handle problems related to welfare, industry, employment and infrastructure in development towns.

The bureau will report to the Ministerial Committee on the Advancement of Development

Towns and Zones, headed by Levy. At the meeting, Levy said there was a need for the government to act quickly to demonstrate the need for action and its concern for development town residents.

Meanwhile, following the tour of the Kitan plant by Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky on Thursday, Sharansky's office announced Friday he would take a long look at all the commitments made by Kitan to receive assistance in the framework of the Law for Encouraging Investment.

Sharansky ordered Investment

Center director David Baruch to look into the possibility of giving preference to those plants which can absorb workers and guarantee steady employment, so that situations like that at Kitan do not recur.

Sharansky also said it is important for companies, especially those receiving government assistance, to make sure they inform the government if they foresee the plant might have to close, so a reasonable amount of time can be given to the workers and, if necessary, the government to deal with the situation. (Tim)



Underwater archeologists display a new find on Friday as part of a conference, sponsored by the Israeli Diving Federation and Haifa University, marking 35 years of underwater archeology in Israel. (Dana Stern/Israel Sun)

WEATHER

Tel Aviv	20-28
Jerusalem	16-27
Beersheba	18-31
Haifa	15-31
Tiberias	20-35
Samarita	16-27
Dead Sea	20-32
Eilat	20-35

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.

Frenchwoman who helped villagers save thousands of Jews, dies at 94

PARIS (AP) - Magda Trocme, a pastor's wife who helped lead the remarkable efforts of a small French village to rescue thousands of Jews from the Nazis, has died at the age of 94.

Trocme died October 10 in a Paris hospital of a cerebral hemorrhage,

her son, Jacques Trocme, said yesterday.

It was Mrs. Trocme and her husband, Andre, a pacifist Protestant pastor, who largely inspired the rescue effort of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, a small mountain community in central France 400 km. south of

France. Through word of mouth, the town became a place of shelter for 5,000 refugees, most of them Jews, during World War II. The entire town was honored at Yad Vashem.

Mrs. Trocme never quite understood all the attention she got for doing something she considered her

natural duty.

"She just always thought that there should be more justice and more love in the world, for people of all social classes," Jacques Trocme said in a telephone interview. "She thought what she was doing was perfectly normal."

Born November 2, 1902 in Florence, Mrs. Trocme came from a family dedicated to fighting injustice. Her Russian ancestors fought for the rights of peasants under the Czar, and her Italian great-grandfather was jailed for protesting his government's treatment of the poor.

Soon after France fell to the Germans in World War II, the collaborationist Vichy government passed laws discriminating against Jews. By 1945, 80,000 Jews had been deported to Nazi death camps. Only 2,500 returned.


Legend has it that the rescue effort began when Mrs. Trocme opened her doors to a Jewish German woman on a cold night in 1940. But actually, her son said, French Jews had been arriving earlier, not to mention Spanish refugees from the Franco regime.

Sheltering mainly children at first, the people of Chambon turned no one away, risking their lives as more and more refugees arrived.

AROUND THE WORLD

	L	O	F	H	C	F
Amsterdam	04	07	09	12	15	18
Bahia	16	19	22	25	28	31
Buenos Aires	16	19	22	25	28	31
Caro	08	11	14	17	20	23
Copenhagen	07	10	13	16	19	22
Frankfurt	08	11	14	17	20	23
Geneva	08	11	14	17	20	23
Hong Kong	24	27	30	33	36	39
London	14	17	20	23	26	29
Los Angeles	10	13	16	19	22	25
Moscow	01	04	07	10	13	16
Mumbai	11	14	17	20	23	26
New York	05	08	11	14	17	20
Paris	08	11	14	17	20	23
Rome	10	13	16	19	22	25
Stockholm	06	09	12	15	18	21
Sydney	16	19	22	25	28	31
Tokyo	09	12	15	18	21	24
Warsaw	06	09	12	15	18	21
Zurich	08	11	14	17	20	23

National Export Month



Israel Export Institute

National Export Day October 29, 1996

will take place in the presence of

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu

Minister of Industry & Trade, Natan Sharansky

Governor of the Bank of Israel, Prof. Yaakov Frenkel

NATIONAL EXPORT DAY

08:30 - 09:50	Assembly, registration and reception
09:50 - 10:00	Opening remarks: Chairman of the Israel Export Institute, Amir Makov
10:00 - 10:20	Address: Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu
10:30 - 10:50	Director of the Israel Export Institute, Amir Hayek
10:50 - 11:10	Governor of the Bank of Israel, Prof. Yaakov Frenkel
11:10 - 12:10	Panel discussion: Export breakthroughs for Start Up Companies
	Moderator: Director General and Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Industry & Trade, Dr. Yehoshua J. (Shuki) Gleitman
	Participants: Co-President, Ornet Data Communication Ltd. Dr. Orna Berry
	President, Rad data Communications Ltd. Zohar Zisapel
	Managing Director, Veritas Venture Capital Management Ltd. Gideon Talkowsky
12:10 - 12:20	Managing Director, Israel Discount Bank, Avraham Asheri
12:20 - 13:10	Gathering of exporters with light refreshments
13:10 - 15:00	Lunch

Address: Minister of Industry & Trade, Natan Sharansky

Reservations: 03-5142901

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

The event will take place at the Tel Aviv Hilton
Simultaneous translation in English is provided

Greenpeace decries transportation of contaminated sludge

LIAT COLLINS

FIVE hundred trucks delivered 10,000 tons of contaminated sludge to the Ramat Hovav toxic waste dump near Beersheba over Succot, violating laws requiring trucks carrying hazardous waste to be marked and banning them from passing through cities, Greenpeace announced on Friday.

Greenpeace's Mediterranean office is accusing the Ramat Hovav Environmental Company of "snatching the industrial sludge" in cooperation with the Environment Ministry.

The trucks came from Carmel Oilfines, a plastics producer in Haifa, where the 10,000 tons of waste had accumulated over 20 years. According to Ory Zik, Greenpeace's local representative, none of the trucks had permission to carry hazardous waste.

Zik said the on-site treatment of the sludge in Haifa was stopped when Ramat Hovav's operators "joined forces with the ministry to demand the mud be transferred to where it's now being dumped. Carmel Oilfines was forced to transport the hazardous waste across the country illegally, although it could have treated it at its own facilities."

Zik said the dumping shows "the low ethical code of the company running Ramat Hovav. Greenpeace is demanding an end to Ramat Hovav's monopoly on dealing with toxic waste and for it to scrap plans to build an incinerator at the site. The long-term solution is clean production in all industrial processes," Zik said.

Environment Ministry spokesman Yiftah Kramer denied the material had been "snatched," saying it had undergone initial treatment on-site and then been transported to Ramat Hovav in keeping with standard policy. "If a company is able to deal with waste on-site, that's fine; if not, it must be transported to Ramat Hovav," he said.

Kramer said the idea that the waste had been snatched apparently stemmed from the rivalry between the company which had been treating the waste and the Ramat Hovav operators, combined with Greenpeace's opposition to constructing an incinerator at the toxic waste site.

The supervision of the transport of waste comes under the auspices of the Transport Ministry, which could not be reached for comment.

Swiss acknowledge 1949 deal to transfer money into Polish accounts

MARILYN HENRY and news agencies

SWITZERLAND on Friday acknowledged it had struck a confidential deal with Poland in 1949 to liquidate Poles' unclaimed wealth in Swiss banks, but denied the pact had let it keep Holocaust victims' riches for itself.

The arrangement was detailed in an exchange of letters dated June 25, 1949 but not published along with a compensation treaty concluded at the same time, the Foreign Ministry in Bern said.

It released copies of the letters, in which the senior Swiss negotiator accepts Warsaw's proposal that Polish citizens' Swiss bank accounts and life insurance policies that went unclaimed for five years to be turned over to Poland's central bank.

The letters were in conjunction with the previously publicized accord under which Poland was to pay Switzerland 52.1 million Swiss francs in compensation for property the then-communist Polish regime had nationalized.

The revelation of the letters was sure to turn up pressure on Switzerland to clear up once and for all the fate of Jewish wealth deposited by people who perished in the Holocaust.

The Foreign Ministry statement said the letters did not support US Senator Alfonse D'Amato's assertion that the 1949 accord let Switzerland divert for itself the unclaimed wealth of Polish Jews who died at Hitler's hands.

"Various sides alleged yesterday that Switzerland struck a secret accord with Poland after World War II that allowed Switzerland to seize for itself dormant assets of Polish citizens," the ministry said. "This allegation is wrong."

It said it was trying to clear up unresolved questions about post-war compensation agreements with Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Romania and Hungary, especially over if, when and how much it paid foreign governments.

Swiss banks have never disputed they were a popular refuge for the wealth of European Jews fearing Nazi persecution after Hitler came to power in Germany in 1933. Many were drawn by Switzerland's strict bank secrecy and neutral status.

But the banks reject claims by the World Jewish Congress that they may be sitting on billions of dollars in assets left behind by Jewish account holders murdered in the Holocaust without having passed along their secret bank details.

Meanwhile, D'Amato, whose Senate banking committee is investigating worldwide allegations that Swiss banks profited from the Holocaust, said he would put more pressure for action on three bodies created in Switzerland to investigate the fate of the Jewish funds.

In an interview with the Swiss newspaper *Journal de Geneve* published on Friday, he demanded a new independent commission be set up to investigate the controversy.

"How can one have confidence in the Swiss authorities when they have only taken action under pressure from public opinion?" D'Amato said.

"The only means to re-establish confidence is to entrust this investigation to personalities above suspicion - independent and non-Swiss."

הקדמה מן הלאה